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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Fund says bond should go with new contribution rate. PAGE 3

2 DOC officers face suspension over escape. PAGE 5

POLL RESULTS

Do you support the idea of stopping future automatic increases in the CNMI's minimum wage?

Yes-**27**

No-**92**

No opinion-**5**

Sunday February 10, 2008

INSIDE

Microsoft Spurned

Yahoo Inc.'s board will reject Microsoft Corp.'s $44.6 billion takeover bid after concluding the unsolicited offer undervalues the slumping Internet pioneer, a person familiar with the situation said Saturday.

Business...Page 14

Colonization's Folly

More than a century ago, European colonists carved up Africa, jamming together people who spoke different languages, danced to different music and worshipped different gods within the same borders.

World...Page 18

CUC projects $14.5M shortfall in '08

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is projecting a $14.5-million shortfall by the end of the fiscal year.

CUC budget proposal indicates the utility expects to collect $102.9 million from October 2007 to September 2008. But its expenditures are estimated to reach $117.4 million.

The revenue projection is based on recently enacted law eliminating the monthly customer charge and reducing power rates for residential customers. It also takes into account emergency regulations that allowed for adjustments to

See CUC on Page 4

Truck kills man in Garapan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 65-year-old man died when a pick-up truck struck him when he crossed Middle Road in Garapan Friday night.

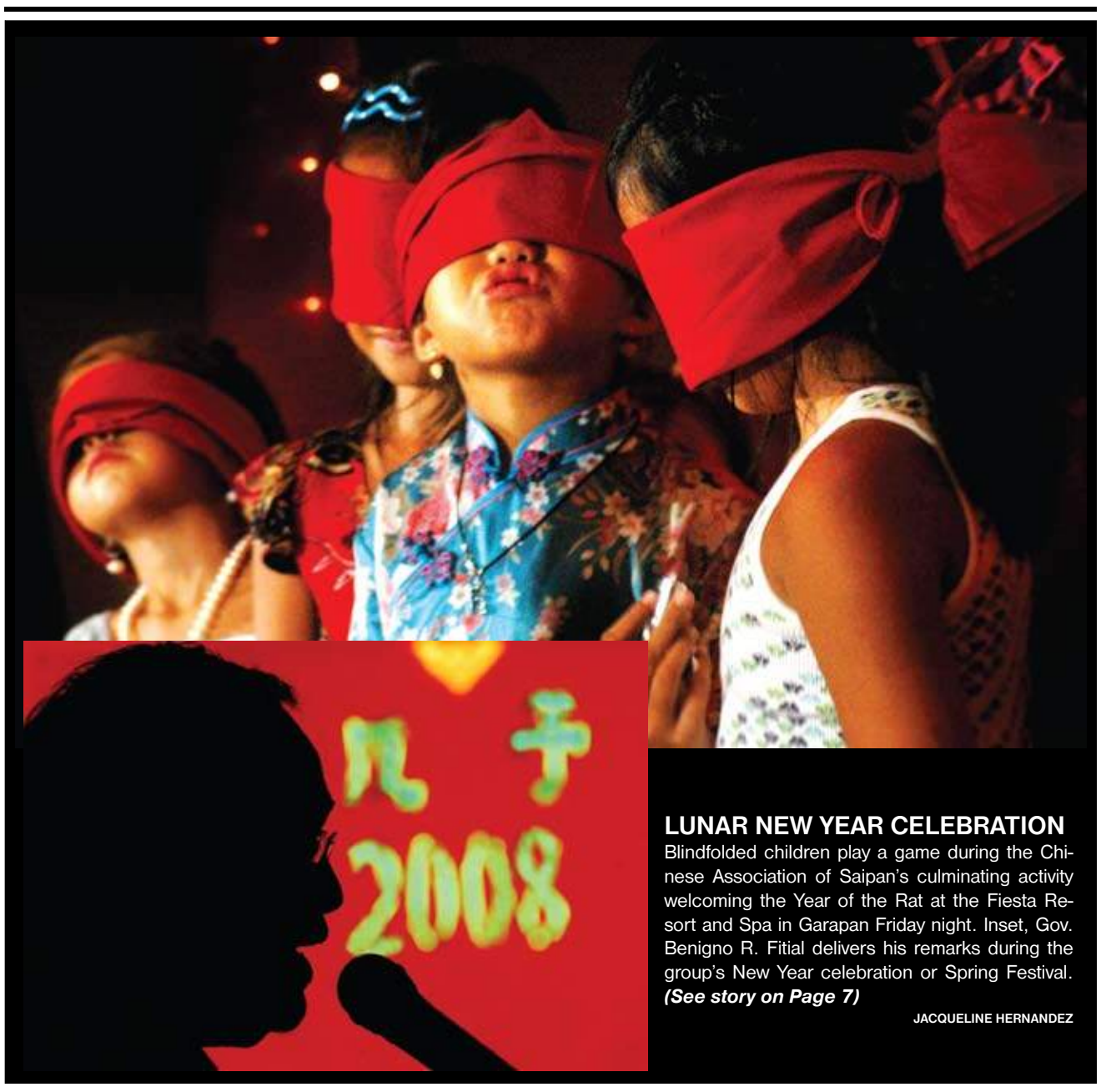
Chungfang Chen, a Chinese, suffered severe head trauma and multiple abrasions to the right side of body. He was pronounced dead at 10:52pm in the hospital, according to the Department of Public Safety.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said the driver was 31-year-old Jesus S. Barcinas Jr.

Ogumoro did not say whether Barcinas was arrested or not.

"The weather was clear and the road surface was dry. This case is pending further investigation,"

See TRUCK on Page 4



LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Blindfolded children play a game during the Chinese Association of Saipan's culminating activity welcoming the Year of the Rat at the Fiesta Resort and Spa in Garapan Friday night. Inset, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial delivers his remarks during the group's New Year celebration or Spring Festival. *(See story on Page 7)*

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Mirage, Commonwealth Garment close factories

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mirage (Saipan) Co. Ltd. and Commonwealth Garment Manufacturing Inc. shut down their operations yesterday, rendering 125 alien workers and 31 resident workers jobless.

Labor investigator Carlos Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that most of the foreign workers of Mirage and Commonwealth Garment already left the CNMI.

Camacho said 57 alien workers of Mirage and 35 foreign national workers of Commonwealth Garment went back to their home countries.

Camacho said Mirage and Commonwealth Garment had 21 and 10 resident workers respectively.

Labor administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody granted transfer relief to eight guest workers of Mirage and 25 alien workers of Commonwealth Gar-

See MIRAGE on Page 4

Local

Rep. Torres pushes for payment of hotel taxes to pension program

Rep. Stanley T. Torres has reintroduced a bill forcing the central government to remit excise and hotel taxes due to the NMI Retirement Fund.

House Bill 16-15 requires that the tax collections be transferred to the pension program at the end of the first fiscal quarter, or Dec. 31.

Current law is vague about this requirement, stating only that 30 percent of the container excise tax and 20 percent of the hotel occupancy tax be paid to the Retirement Fund annually. The funds are intended for the group health and life insurance program.

The existing law has been in effect since 1994. The Fund has reported the government never complied with this law. According to the August 2006 lawsuit filed by the Fund against the Executive Branch, the central government owed the Fund at least $24 million due its repeated violation of P.L. 8-31.

Torres

"The Legislature has discovered that the Northern Marianas Retirement Fund is apparently not receiving its tax revenues from the hotel occupancy tax and alcoholic container tax from the Department of Finance," states House Bill 15-139. "This legislation will prevent the repeated failure of the DOF remittance of the tax revenues to the Northern Marianas Islands Retirement Fund, in order that the Fund can properly contribute to the retirees' health and life insurance programs."

The bill passed in the 15th House of Representatives, but failed in the Senate.

On Nov. 1, 2007, the GHLI program was privatized and awarded to Aetna, through the competitive bidding process. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

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SCRATCH FOR CASH WINNER JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Joeten Motor Company, Inc. general manager Matt Deets hands over a check worth $8,912 to Kamruz Zaman, the lucky winner of Joeten's Scratch for Cash lottery at the Marianas Lottery station in Joeten Susupe Friday afternoon. Joeten Group of Companies, which sponsored the Scratch for Cash, is inviting the community to try their luck on the next lottery draw for Joeten's anniversary to be held by the end of June 2008.

Fuel farm assessment report expected in April

A federally funded feasibility study for a fuel farm in the CNMI is expected in April 2008.

The study will include information on building a fuel storage facility for all three major islands, inclusive of power generation and aviation fuel demands.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation hired JET Consulting Services to conduct the assessment. Funds for the 60-day contract were provided by the Department of the Interior through a technical assistance grant program.

Anthony Guerrero, executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, said a preliminary report is expected in mid-March 2008. The final report will follow in April.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and his predecessor, former Gov. Juan N. Babauta, have expressed concern about CUC's lack of fuel storage capacity.

"[This] must be addressed to ensure that the CNMI has the ability to minimize the duration and effect of the economic disruptions caused by high oil prices," Fitial said.

He noted that previous contracts entered into by CUC have provided for exclusive use of storage facilities on Rota and Tinian for Mobil. He said this restricted CUC's ability to negotiate a long-term fuel supply contract with suppliers other than Mobil because such an agreement could not guarantee fuel to Rota and Tinian.

Fuel is CUC's largest cost, and the commodity's skyrocketing price has caused financial hardship to the utility. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Fund says bond should go with new contribution rate

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund has asked Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to allow the central government to float a bond so it can pay its debt to the pension program.

Juan T. Guerrero, chairman of the Fund board of trustees, said a pension obligation bond should accompany legislation that set the government contribution rate at 18 percent.

"A pension obligation bond should serve the purposes of providing the necessary capital infusion to temporarily stabilize the Fund, address the arrearages that have been incurred by various administrations, and decrease the central government's actuarially determined contribution rate by eliminating accumulated arrearages," Guerrero said.

The government's long-term financial liabilities to the Fund currently stand at $547.2 million.

Guerrero made the request to the governor in relation to recent legislation setting an 18-percent contribution rate for the central government and the Public System System, and compelling autonomous agencies to pay the actuarially determined rate of 39.7 percent.

The governor initially opposed the bill, as he had wanted a rate of 11 percent. But he signed it into law eventually.

According to Guerrero, although the legislation does not provide the actuarially recommended rate for the central government and PSS, it is a step in the right direction toward addressing the government's debt to the Fund.

However, he reminded the government that the government's debt would accumulate for employees whose positions are covered by the 18 percent contribution.

"The enactment of [the said law] in conjunction with the issuance of a pension obligation bond, represent progress not only in addressing long-term accrued liabilities of the government to the Fund, but also in reducing the rate of increase of future liability brought about by the current inability to make the full amount of actuarially determined contributions," Guerrero said.

Ex-Rep. Kaipat joins Labor as deputy secretary

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Rep. Cinta Kaipat, author of the controversial Public Law 15-108 or the new labor reform law, is joining the Department of Labor as deputy secretary.

Labor sources disclosed that Kaipat started occupying the deputy secretary position effective last Thursday.

Saipan Tribune tried to get comment on Friday from the former lawmaker about her appointment, but she was in a meeting with other Labor staff members.

Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas, however, confirmed to *Tribune* that Kaipat was indeed appointed as deputy secretary.

San Nicolas said he will talk about Kaipat's appointment in the coming days. The Labor Secretary was busy talking with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial at Labor's lobby Friday afternoon.

In the past few weeks, there were talks at Labor that Kaipat may replace San Nicolas as Labor Secretary.

Labor's Employment Services Director Alfred Pangelinan used to serve as acting deputy secretary.

Kaipat was previously employed at Labor as administrative hearing officer before she became a lawmaker. She lost her re-election bid as Representative for Precinct 1 last November election.

Kaipat was the principal author of P.L. 15-108 that took effect early this year.

Human rights advocate Wendy Doromal slammed the law as inhumane and a mean-spirited that would only harm not only the guest workers and their families, but the residents of the CNMI, the businesses, and the economy.

But Kaipat has strongly defended the law. He earlier stated, among other things, that nothing in P.L. 15-108 deprives any foreign worker of any aspect of belonging in the community.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
SECOND PUBLIC NOTICE

(Tuesday, February 5th, 2008)—The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) provides advanced Public Notice of scheduled Public Hearings for the purpose of accepting written and verbal comments on proposed action to make emergency electric-fuel rate increases permanent regulations. As is permissible in Public Law 15-94, under Section 2, "The Electric-Fuel Rates may fluctuate depending on the actual cost of fuel."

Proposal Summary and Background
On November 2, 2007 Emergency Regulations were promulgated to adjust the utility rate structure to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to recover a portion of the costs it is charged by big oil companies for diesel and lube oils. The cost-recovery or fluctuating fuel costs are allowable under Section 2 of Public Law 15-94.

The adjustment, however, did not allow full cost-recovery for the utility's residential customers. This created a funding shortfall which led to the need for a Declaration of a State of Disaster Emergency, which remains in effect. (Executive Order 2007-11, Executive Order 2008-1, Executive Order 2008-2).

On January 31, 2008, the CUC published Proposed Amendments to the Electric Service Regulations in a Supplemental Commonwealth Register (Volume 30 No. 01). The proposal is to make the emergency electric-fuel rate increases permanent regulations. Copies of the Proposed Amendments to the Electric Service Regulations are available at the CUC or the Office of Attorney General. As written in the January 31, 2008, Supplemental Commonwealth Register, CUC has given thirty (30) days notice of its intent to adopt the regulations as permanent pursuant to 1 CMC § 9104(a) and to hold public hearings on the proposed regulations in each senatorial district pursuant to 4 CMC § 8142, as amended by Executive Order 2006-4.

The CUC will hold Public Hearings within each of the CNMI senatorial districts as follows:

Tuesday, February 19, 2008	**1:00 p.m.**	**Tinian** **Tinian Court House, San Jose**
Wednesday, February 20, 2008	**1:00 p.m.**	**Saipan** **Multi-Purpose Center**
Thursday, February 21, 2008	**1:00 p.m.**	**Rota** **Rota Court House**

Customer comments are encouraged now through February 29th, 2008. Please write comments or a letter to the CUC Executive Director, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950; or, via facsimile to: (670) 235-5131; or, via e-mail: betty@cucgov.net

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Malite heirs want to join Yana's and Atalig's appeal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The heirs of Angel Malite want to intervene into the appeal filed by attorneys Reynaldo O. Yana and Antonio M. Atalig before the CNMI Supreme Court.

The heirs—Rosa Maliti, Lourdes Rangamar, Rombert Sinounou and Jimmy Sablan—said they must be allowed to intervene as a matter of right to protect their vested interest in the property of the Malite estate.

Attorney Stephen J. Nutting, counsel for the heirs, stated in court papers that Yana's and Atalig's failure to join the heirs in the high court action or to serve them violates their rights to notice and opportunity to protect their vested interest in the estate property.

Nutting asserted that the writ of prohibition filed by Yana and Atalig sufficiently states a claim against the heirs' vested property interest in estate property in the form of attorney's fees.

The recovery of such attorney's fees, Nutting pointed out, will be impeded and impaired if they are not allowed to intervene.

On Jan. 15, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo found Yana and Atalig in contempt of court and suspended them from practicing law for failing to return to the court the $1.3 million in attorneys' fees that had been awarded them in the Malite probate.

Govendo also kicked out Jesus C. Tudela as the estate administrator for mismanagement.

Yana and Atalig appealed to the high court. The two lawyers argued that Govendo acted in excess of his jurisdiction. They asked the high tribunal to vacate the suspension order and demanded review of other issues in the underlying Malite probate.

On Friday, the high court stopped the suspension of Yana and Atalig and set an oral argument on March 11, 2008.

In the heirs' motion to intervene, Nutting said had Yana and Atalig sought only to be reinstated for purposes of representing Albert Patrick Kaipat's criminal appeal, they would not be seeking intervention.

Nutting said by filing the writ of prohibition, however, Yana and Atalig exceed the confines of Kaipat's criminal appeal and attempt to reach the Malite estate property in which the heirs hold a direct, substantial and protectable interest.

Nutting said the petition for writ of prohibition requested relief that includes vacating orders entered by the probate court pertaining to the recovery of estate property including disgorgement of previously awarded attorneys fees, removal of Yana and Atalig as attorneys for Tudela, and contempt orders against the two lawyers to enforce such orders.

In addition, Nutting said, the two lawyers once again seek the removal of Govendo and disciplinary action against the judge for his actions in the probate case.

Ironically, the heirs counsel said, Yana and Atalig fail to raise a single issue regarding any injury to Kaipat, the appellant in the criminal matter nor do they demonstrate any denial or violation of any Kaipat's rights.

"Instead, they blatantly misuse appellate procedures to once again resort to surreptitious methods to prevent the Maliti heirs from recovering estate property in the probate court by filing this latest writ of prohibition in an unrelated criminal matter," Nutting added.

US EPA and Hawaii Department of Health to host meeting of Pacific Basin Brownfields Response Team

HONOLULU—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Hawaii Department of Health are hosting a meeting of environmental officials from the Pacific Territories to improve Pacific Island environmental response programs.

Officials from Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas, State of Hawaii, and U.S. EPA will lay the foundation for a Pacific Basin Brownfields Response Team. The goal is to build stronger and more effective programs to prevent and respond to chemical contamination on land and water. The team will allow for informational sharing and collaboration between the environmental officials working on brownfields response programs.

"The workshop will give Pacific Island environmental officials the opportunity to form a long-term collaborative working group to share their expertise and experience. As a result, we expect their response programs will become much more effective," said John McCarroll, manager for the EPA Pacific Southwest region's Pacific Islands office. "EPA is using its programs, authorities, and grants to enhance the islands' response programs. This will improve the environment of the Pacific Islands."

The inaugural meeting will be held in Honolulu on February 11-13, 2008. The EPA estimates there are 450,000 abandoned sites contaminated with hazardous chemicals – known as "brownfields" – and sponsoring this meeting is part of the agency's program to encourage cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields sites.

"This inaugural event and future meetings will allow us to share our successes, experiences, and tools as we work to improve our response programs and clean up contaminated land throughout the Pacific islands," said Laurence Lau, Deputy Director for Environmental Health, Hawaii Department of Health.

"These meetings will strengthen our communications network and form the heart of our collaborative effort to improve our programs."

The EPA's brownfields program encourages redevelopment of America's estimated 450,000 abandoned and contaminated waste sites. Since the beginning of the program, the EPA has awarded 1,067 assessment grants totaling more than $262 million, 217 revolving loan fund grants totaling more than $201.7 million, and 336 cleanup grants totaling $61.3 million.

In addition to industrial and commercial redevelopment, brownfields approaches have included the conversion of industrial waterfronts to riverfront parks, landfills to golf courses, rail corridors to recreational trails, and gas stations to housing. EPA's brownfields assistance has leveraged more than $9.6 billion in cleanup and redevelopment, helped create more than 43,029 jobs and resulted in the assessment of more than 10,504 properties and the cleanup of 180 properties. ***(EPA)***

TOUGH TIMES FOR NMC

Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez answers a question from the media while NMC Board of Regents acting chair Charles V. Cepeda listens during Friday's press conference regarding the show-cause order issued by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges inside the BOR conference room.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

TRUCK

From Page 1

Ogumoro said that, on Friday at 10:15pm, DPS received a report of an auto-pedestrian crash along Chalan Pale Arnold (Middle Road) in Garapan near Gene's Barber Shop.

Preliminary investigation showed that a gray 1994 Nissan pick-up truck driven by Barcinas was heading north on Middle Road using the outer lane.

Chen attempted to cross the highway from the southbound shoulder to the northbound shoulder. The truck struck him on the northbound outer lane.

Responding medics transported Chen to the Commonwealth Health Center where Dr. Patrick Tong pronounced him dead.

Chen is the first vehicular accident fatality this year in the CNMI.

The last fatal vehicular accident occurred on Dec. 6, 2007, when a fire dancer died when his car ran off the roadway and slammed into a power pole along Middle Road in Garapan.

Three other fatal vehicular crashes occurred in 2007.

In 2006, there were six fatalities in vehicular accidents in the CNMI. All occurred on Saipan.

MIRAGE

From Page 1

ment who expressed intention to seek new employers.

Camacho said those interested to transfer are required to come to Labor's Division of Employment Services and register on or before Feb. 25, 2008.

In separate administrative orders, Cody said the work permits of the 33 remaining guest workers of the two factories were revoked effective yesterday.

Cody said these 33 alien workers may transfer to non-garment jobs if they are qualified.

The job vacancy announcement requirements are waived for transfer to same job category with other garment manufacturers.

"Any employee who submits a transfer to another garment job (garment to garment transfer) on or before Feb. 25, 2008 is not required to register at the Division of Employment Services (DES)," Cody said.

He said if these workers do not register with DES by Feb. 25 they will be no longer be eligible to transfer relief and will be required to come to Labor Enforcement Section immediately in order to make arrangements for their repatriation.

Last December, Mirage and the Commonwealth Garment, through their general manager Calvin Ye, informed the Labor about the planned Feb. 10, 2008, closure.

The general manager did not indicate the reasons of the closure in their notice to Labor.

However, the Gualo Rai-based factories informed their employees that the reasons are the adverse impact resulted from the implementation in the CNMI of the federal Minimum Wage Act and strong competition from garment industry of other countries and regions with lower labor wage costs.

Four other garment factories shutdown their operations this year.

Winners Corp. in Afetnas ceased its operation last Feb. 5, causing 337 alien workers and 48 resident workers jobless.

Last Jan. 28, 105 alien workers and 20 Federated States of Micronesia citizens became jobless when Poong-In Saipan Inc. closed its factory in Afetnas.

Last Jan. 18, Sam Kwang Saipan Corp. shut down its factory in Afetnas, leaving 157 alien workers and 14 resident workers with no job.

Last Jan. 13, Neo Fashion Inc. also ceased operations, rendering 88 alien workers and 13 residents workers jobless.

With the closure of Mirage and Commonwealth Garment only six factories remain standing—Rifu, Onwell Manufacturing, United International Corp., Kyung Seung Saipan Inc., Marianas Garment Manufacturing, and Uno Moda.

Many garment factories closed down on the island since January 2005, when the World Trade Organization lifted trade quotas.

CNMI used to have 34 garment factories, all located on Saipan. The garment industry used to contribute some $60 million in direct taxes a year to the local government.

CUC

From Page 1

the fuel component of power rates.

Power revenues is anticipated to total $95.3 million. This includes CUC's nearly 40,000 commercial customers, 9,750 government customers, and 143,200 residential customers. Combined, CUC's annual usage of 312 gigawatt annually. Monthly customer charges are expected to reach $883,000. The non-fuel component of power rates will bring in $20 million for CUC, while the fuel component will total $74.4 million.

The power revenue, combined revenue projections for water ($8.9 million) and sewer ($1.8 million), will total $106 million. This, minus some $3.1 million bad debts, will result in $102.9 million projected revenues.

Fuel and lube costs are expected to eat up $84.8 million of CUC's revenues. This leaves insufficient funds for personnel, $11.9 million, and general operations, $20.7 million.

CUC has been placed under state of emergency because it cannot pay its fuel. The state of emergency declaration allows the governor to assume full control of CUC and suspend all regulatory statute provisions and regulations applicable to CUC, including procurement regulations. The governor will also have the power to reprogram all available funds to address CUC's problems.

Since December, the central government has funneled $5 million in local funds to CUC.

The governor has ordered the salaries of all CUC employees to be cut by 10 percent. "Non-essential" employees have had their work schedule reduced by eight hours every pay period. This is equivalent to another 10 percent salary cut.

2 DOC officers face suspension over escape

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

At least two Corrections officers will be facing suspension from their job over the escape of a notorious burglar at the old prison facility in Susupe last year.

Department of Corrections Commissioner Lino Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune* that the two Corrections officers were the ones on duty when the escape happened.

Michael M. Peter, who is facing five years in prison, escaped from his cell at the old DOC facility on Oct. 8, 2007. But after several hours he surrendered to police.

Tenorio said investigation concluded that Peter actually escaped from detention.

Tenorio said Peter was just making an excuse that a Corrections officer forced him to get out from detention.

"We have officers that were involved as far as not doing their job… to be at most and they will be facing a suspension in the near future," he said.

The DOC commissioner said the suspension order has not been enforced yet because of the department's preparation for the opening and blessing of the new correction building.

Tenorio also disclosed that there are also other officers who have been committing violations of the department's rules and regulations.

Tenorio

"We have been holding back their actions as far as suspension because of all these things, the lack of manpower," he said.

Earlier Tenorio said based on his preliminary information, a Corrections officer was apparently conducting the 15-minute routine check when he noticed that Peter was not in his detention cell.

Tenorio said one of the officers assigned to the Special Management Unit observed that the door was slightly open.

The officer then learned that Peter was missing from the cell.

In May 2006, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Peter to five years in jail for two burglary cases.

Wiseman sentenced Peter to five years in jail, all suspended except two years and six months, for burglary.

Wiseman sentenced the defendant to five years in jail, all suspended except two years and six months, for another burglary.

Wiseman said the sentence shall run consecutively without the possibility of parole.

It means that Peter shall serve a total of five years in jail.

Peter was charged in three cases with conspiracy to commit burglary, burglary and theft.

In the fourth case, the defendant was charged with three counts of conspiracy to commit burglary, three counts of burglary, and three counts of theft.

In the last case, Peter was charged with three counts of burglary and five counts of theft.

The defendant entered a plea agreement. He pleaded guilty to two burglary charges in two cases.

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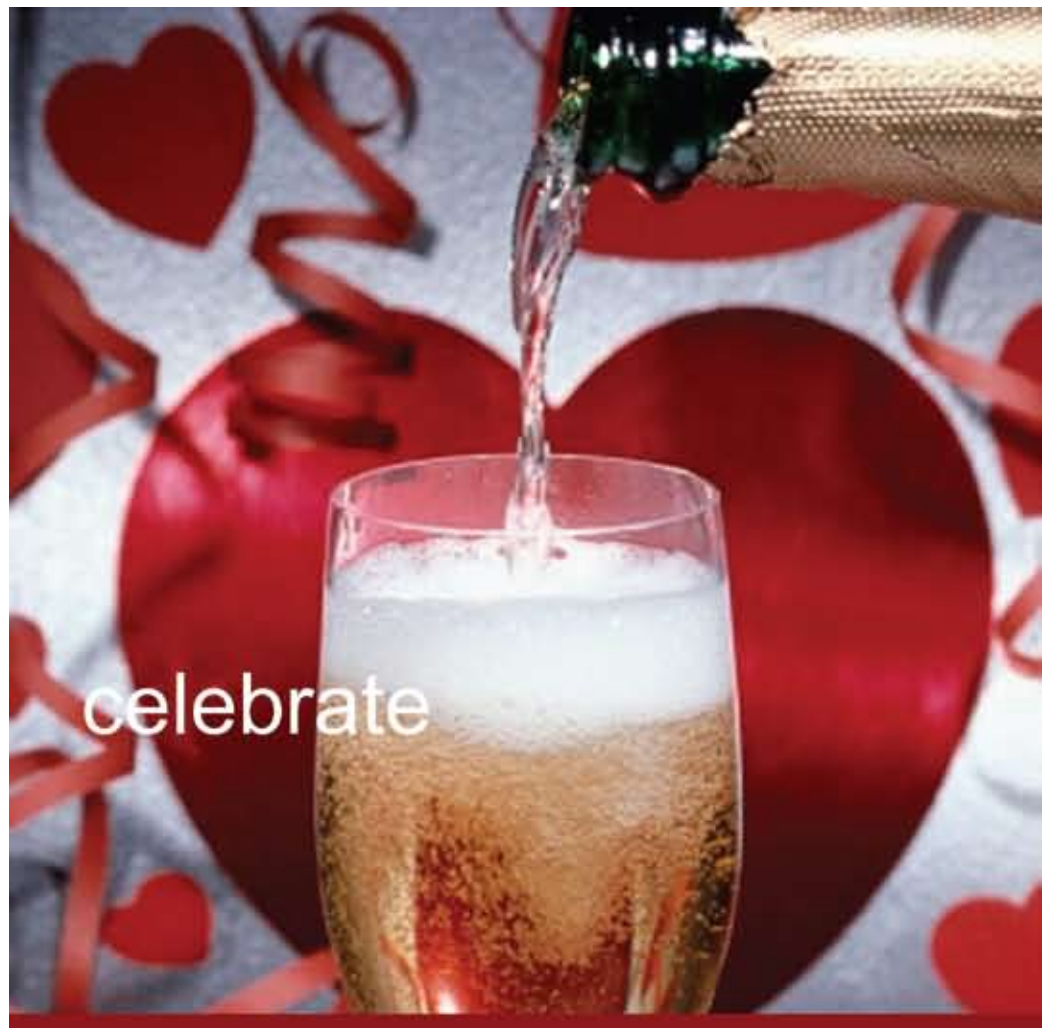

This Valentine's

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Valentine's Set Menu
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Kili Cafe & Terrace
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$35.00 per person for CATH members*

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Then acting director's order found unlawful, nonresident worker reinstated to previous job

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_felatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has reinstated an alien worker to his previous job after finding that the then acting Labor director's order that granted the worker's transfer was unlawful.

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Jerry Cody ordered the immediate reinstatement of Melquiades A. Atienza to his employment at Saipan Ice & Water Company as a chemical mixer.

Cody said the legal effect of the director's order issued by then acting Labor director James Ulloa is considered null and void.

Cody

Cody said any statement in that order purporting to terminate the contract or revoke Atienza's work permit is also nullified.

The hearing officer ruled that Ulloa's order in this case was not authorized by any specific statute or regulation.

But Cody emphasized that notwithstanding his conclusion, he finds that both Ulloa and the employer, Saipan Ice, acted in good faith in this case.

He noted that any Atienza's potential claim for lost wages due to this situation lies beyond the scope of the worker's appeal, which concerned merely the validity of the director's order and the employee's right to continued employment at Saipan Ice under his current nonresident work permit.

According to Labor records, Atienza was employed as a chemical mixer by Saipan Ice under a work and entry permit that is scheduled to expire on June 6, 2008.

On Sept. 8, 2007, Saipan Ice delivered a letter to Atienza that stated that the worker was being terminated due to "economic necessity."

Atienza was advised he had 45 days from the date of the notice to secure an employer.

On Sept. 19, 2007, Saipan Ice's management met with then acting Labor director Ulloa to request an order terminating the employee's contract and granting him transfer relief.

Although Atienza was present at Labor at that time, he remained at the Processing Section's counter while the employer's representative met Ulloa in his office.

Ulloa, acting in good faith, then issued a document entitled "Director's Order Granting Transfer of Atienza."

The order was issued personally on Atienza while he waited at the Processing counter.

Atienza did not contest the order at that time, but later filed an appeal.

At the hearing, Ulloa testified that he had issued the director's order under the assumption that Atienza was not objecting to the transfer.

Ulloa noted that if the employee had expressed an objection, he would have referred the matter to the Division of Enforcement Section.

Had Atienza disputed the termination issue in the Enforcement Section, he would have been directed to file a labor complaint for wrongful termination.

Ulloa testified that where an employer alleges "economic hardship" as a justification for reducing its work force, the director's office generally requires the employer to present evidence of the hardship involved before approving any reduction in force.

In this case, however, Ulloa did not ask the employer to present such evidence, but merely accepted the employer's letter request.

Atienza, through counsel Stephen C. Woodruff, challenged the legal validity of the director's order on the grounds that it is not authorized by statute and it deprives the employee of his due process rights.

At the hearing, Ulloa could not identify the statute or regulation under which he had issued his order.

However, Ulloa noted that his order was issued with the concurrence of the Labor's former legal counsel.

Ulloa testified that his order procedure was used in several cases and only where neither party objected to terminating the contract and granting a transfer.

Until Atienza's objection, no party to a director's order has ever challenged its validity.

In his administrative order, Cody said a review of the Nonresident Workers Act and its implementing Regulations establishes that the authority to grant transfer relief resides in the Administrative Hearing Office rather than in the Director's Office.

"The only exception appears in the now-repealed consensual transfer provisions, which specified a means by which an employee could obtain a consensual transfer after a transfer interview at the Division of Labor," Cody said.

Except for the consensual transfer process, he said, no specific provisions in the Act or its implementing Regulations give the Labor director authority to grant transfer relief to workers during or at the end of their contracts.

But Cody said Saipan Ice appears to have assumed, in accordance with the Act, that it needed the director's permission to effect a fundamental change in Atienza's employment contract such as terminating the contract and giving the employee a new opportunity to transfer.

"Although I hold that the hearing office—not the Labor director—should have been the Division to issue any applicable transfer order, the mistake of the parties was understandable under the circumstances," Cody said.

The hearing also determined that there is no evidence that Atienza was informed that he was entitled to object to the proposed termination of his contract.

If he has such notice, Cody said, there is no indication he was given an opportunity to be heard on the subject before the director's order was issued.

"The absence of such notice and opportunity to be heard makes the director's order inherently flawed," he added.

Man gets probation sentence for stealing one case of beer

The Superior Court has imposed a one year probation sentence on a 20-year-old man who stole one case of beer from a store.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo sentenced James Wilbur Kintz to one year in prison, all suspended, for theft.

Govendo, however, placed the defendant on one year of probation. The judge required him to perform 50 hours of community work service unless he gained full-time employment in Guam.

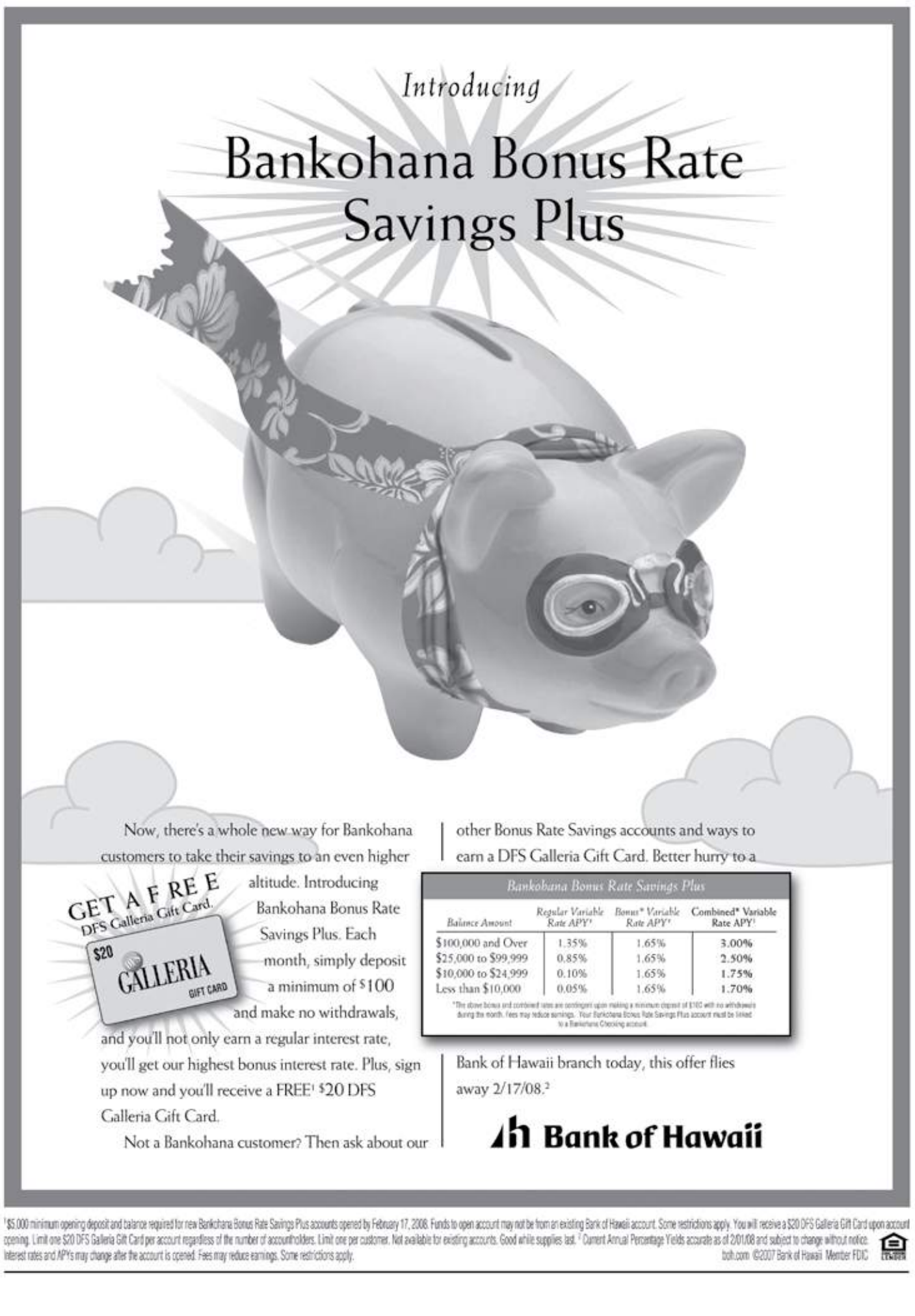
Govendo ordered the defendant to pay a $250 fine, $25 court assessment fee, plus probation fee.

The judge said no need for restitution fee because the items were recovered.

Kintz and counsel assistant public defender Douglas Hartig entered a plea agreement with the government represented by assistant attorney general Joseph Taijeron.

Kintz pleaded guilty to theft.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, on Aug. 16, 2006, the defendant stole one case of Budweiser beer from Flame Tree Store on Saipan. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***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Chinese Association of Saipan welcomes Year of the Rat

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial joins Saipan Chinese Associations director Antonio Lim, Saipan Chinese Associations vice president Johnnie Fong, and Saipan's Chinese Economic Development Association Luo Xiaodong.

By CLARISSA DAVID
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Chinese Association of Saipan president Jerry Tan expressed hope for the CNMI on 2008 Friday night during the group's culminating activity in welcoming the Year of the Rat at Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall.

Tan, who was not in attendance during the dinner party, relayed his message through a speech read by the group's vice president, Johnnie Fong.

"2008 is a good year to make a fresh start," he said in his message, adding that everyone should continue to work together for the good of the community, in spite of the current economic situation on the islands.

The event began with a lion dance ceremony and also included a poetry recital, musical and dance performances, and a raffle draw. Major prizes for the draw were two roundtrip tickets to Shanghai courtesy of Century Travel and one roundtrip ticket to Guangzhou from Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Red envelopes, also known as Hong Bao in Mandarin and Lai See in Cantonese, were also handed out to all the kids in the audience.

Rose Chan, former president of the association, said that every Chinese New Year, they want "to give a good feeling" for the Chinese and the rest of the people on island. "We try to help, we try to do something good for our community."

Chan added that half of the money raised during the event was used for the raffle draw while the rest will be donated to the victims of the snow disaster in China.

According to Chan, the meaning of rat in Chinese is "very smart," so she hopes to see businesses improving this year and looks forward to "having a better economic environment."

Association director Ta Bun Kuy believes that 2008 will be better for Saipan. "I can feel that beginning this year, it will be a little bit better. The economy will change.

"If there's a need to change for the better, we have to get together and accept the changes," Ta added.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Chinese children entertain the crowd with a song presentation.

Laser and Eye Surgery Center of Saipan
Hardt Eye Clinic

Samuel C. Lo, O.D., M.D.

Dr. Lo received his ophthalmology training at the world renowned New York Eye and Ear Infirmary and followed by a retina fellowship at the Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York. He specializes in the treatment of retinal disease including Diabetic eye disease, Macular degeneration, Retinal detachment, Cataract and Glaucoma. Dr. Lo returns to Saipan to offer "**Advanced Eye Care**" to the people of Saipan.

Dr. Lo will be in Saipan beginning February 18, 2008 for one week. Medicare, Medicaid and most insurance are accepted.

Appointments can be made by calling Hardt Eye Clinic (670) 235-2030, the Laser and Eye Surgery Center (808) 949-2000 or by email at drsamuello@yahoo.com.

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A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

Looking back at the Mariana Islands the past 62 years

PHOTO BY DMS
The Saipan Power Plant just below Maturana Hill. The plant was built by the U.S. Navy immediately after the invasion that provided electricity for the naval bases.

Bennett awaits decision from high court

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Teacher Representative Ambrose Bennett is still waiting for a response from the Supreme Court in regards to his filing of "certified questions".

According to clerk of Supreme Court Jonathan Grayson, "It is still pending before the court and no set date for anything yet."

Bennett had filed "certified questions" to the court but I had not done what it did not do what it had to do to initiate case, Grayson said.

Bennett had to re-file early January and he currently awaits the decision of the court.

Bennett had placed the issue of the teacher rep post before the court and the Office of the Attorney General.

The governor's special assistant for education, Dan Nielsen, has advised the governor to await guidance from the court and his attorney general's office.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said, "From a political and public policy perspective, we also do not think it is appropriate to place the entire burden of appointing a representative of the teachers squarely on the Governor's Office.

He added that the "Public School System should probably also take on a greater role in the process. It seems that everyone wants to force the governor to decide in order to take political cover behind him and blame him for any problems that may arise. This should not be the governor's decision alone."

SPC's 60th anniversary celebrations end with Suva book launch

SPC SUVA REGIONAL OFFICE, Fiji–The launch of a book telling the story of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) will mark the end of the organization's 60th anniversary celebrations. The launch took place at SPC's regional offices in Nabua last Wednesday, Feb. 6.

"SPC's anniversary celebrations kicked off in Suva, Fiji, in February last year with a very successful open day at the Civic Center. It's appropriate that they are ending in Suva a year later with the launch of this special book," says Falani Aukuso, SPC deputy director general.

The title of the book, *Meeting House of the Pacific*, reflects a statement made by the Right Honourable Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara in his opening speech at SPC's 50th Anniversary Conference in Canberra in 1997. He acknowledged the universality of SPC, saying, "There is a place here for every country, large or small, and at whatever stage of political development."

"Fiji contributed an outstanding secretary general to SPC, Dr. Macu Salato, who led the organization from 1975 to 1979," noted Falani Aukuso. "Before joining SPC, Dr. Salato had a dedicated medical career, he was the first Fijian mayor of Suva and he was also a member of the Great Council of Chiefs. He's particularly remembered by SPC for his strong and far-sighted support for a regional approach to development."

The book was launched by Dr. Jimmie Rodgers, SPC director general.

"The story of SPC and its service to the region over the past six decades is in many ways the story of Pacific Island people themselves. SPC is the Pacific's oldest regional organization. It has stayed relevant because all 22 Pacific island countries and territories are members of the Pacific Community and they all play an equal role in governing the organization," said Dr. Rodgers.

He reiterates that "SPC is fully committed to its mission—to help Pacific Island people respond effectively to the challenges they face and make informed decisions about the future they wish to leave for the generations that follow."

The director general commissioned a small team within SPC to produce the book. They found historic photographs in the organization's archives and studied numerous printed sources to compile the history, supplementing the archival material with vibrant contemporary photographs to produce an iconic publication to celebrate the 60th anniversary.

The book is bilingual—English and French—and describes how the organization has grown, changed and matured with the Pacific region over the 60 years. It includes brief biographies of each leader of the organization and lists of the key events of each decade. ***(PR)***

PUPPIES FOR ADOPTION

PAWS has three adorable puppies that are up for adoption–two males and one female! The two male pups, shown in the pictures, are about 6-7 weeks old. Both have been de-wormed and treated for ticks/fleas. If you are interested in meeting these two, contact Annie at 483-0198 cell and 322-7241 home. You may also email Annie at annie96950@gmail.com. The female boonie pup has an absolutely lovely personality and is about eight weeks old, brown with white markings on her nose and the crest of her head. She has been de-wormed. If you are interested in meeting this little lady, contact Katie at 286-0970, 256-0243, or at busenkell@gmail.com.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 11, 2000

Teno okays taxbreaks for banks
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has signed into law a measure exempting banks and other financial institutions from paying gross revenue tax for interest gained from loans extended to the government, as well as giving tax rebate for such income. But the governor at the same time vetoed four other bills, including a proposal seeking to suspend collection of excise taxes for telecommunications equipment imported into Rota that officials said would allow establishment of cellular phone service on the island.

CNMI economy bound to lose $150-M per year
The local economy stands to lose between $100 million and $150 million in total revenues every year once apparel manufacturers on Saipan uproot their factories from the island due to world and regional trade liberalization. The garment industry played a major role in preventing economic depression in the CNMI when the travel sector reached rock bottom due to currency crisis in Asia, particularly Japan and South Korea.

PSS asks $40 million for FY 2001
Citing the need to fill up vacancies needed to efficiently run learning institutions in the CNMI, the Public School System is asking $40 million in budget allocation for the fiscal year 2001. Members of the Seventh CNMI State Board of Education approved the budget proposal in its second meeting yesterday. The proposal will be submitted to the Office of the Governor. PSS was originally planning to ask for $44 million for the next fiscal year but decided not to seek funding for 114 full-time employees positions that may have cost the System close to $4 million, according to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita H. Inos.

February 11, 2002

Asia to lead economic recovery; economist tells NMI to diversify
The Northern Marianas should shift its focus to Asia's emerging financial powers to maintain a sound local economy amid the business slowdown in the mainland United States. Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Group Chief Economist for Asia Geoffrey Barker told Saipan businessmen that the Asian economy will surge in 2002.

Plans to hold US-CPA exam in NMI revived
Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente on Friday expressed support and urged the revival of efforts to have the US Certified Public Accountant board examinations conducted here in the CNMI. In a speech before the Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants, Benavente said that now would be a good time for the 13th Legislature to reconsider the passage of an accountancy act, so the US-CPA board examination could also be offered here in the Commonwealth.

Local hiring: A balancing act for local businesses
Local businessmen must follow the law when it comes to hiring policies but, at the same time, they should not be forced to take in more locals just to mitigate the unemployment problem of the Commonwealth. Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Richard Pierce stressed this point, even as he said that, before getting caught in the emotions of the moment, everyone has to understand that businesses are in business to make money and to profit.

February 11, 2003

Landfill opening pushed back to Thursday
The Division of Environmental Quality yesterday released the permit for the Marpi landfill, in time for the facility's supposed opening today. However, the opening has been pushed back to Thursday to give contractors' more time to put in "finishing touches." Press Secretary Pete Callaghan said the decision to postpone the landfill's official opening came late yesterday afternoon. He said the contractors for the project requested the extension to allow them to complete finishing touches on the road within the landfill facility.

More role in national defense eyed
The House of Representatives is pursuing an increased role for the CNMI in the nation's security and defense efforts by volunteering to make available more of the Commonwealth's land, sea and air space to the U.S. military. The House adopted Friday a resolution supporting the CNMI's expanded role in the national defense and security needs of the U.S. and its insular territories.

Teacher rep post still unfulfilled

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Teacher Representative position is still left unfulfilled to this date.

BOE chairwoman Lucia Blanco-Maratita said in email that it is the board's position that the prerogative to appoint a teacher representative rests solely with the governor, "pursuant to the Constitution."

The board should not be involved in the selection of the representative," Blanco-Maratita said.

Former teacher representative Ambrose Bennett had reiterated the governor's need to reappoint him as teacher rep even in an acting capacity until the governor had announced that he will not reappoint Bennett, instead wait for the decision of the Supreme Court.

According to Press Secretary Charles Reyes Jr., "From a political and public policy perspective, we do not think it is appropriate to place the entire burden of appointing a representative of the teachers squarely on the governor's office."

Reyes suggest that the Public School System should also take on a greater role in the process.

It seems that everyone wants to force the governor to decide in order to take political cover behind him and blame him for any problems that may arise.

"This should not be the governor's decision alone," Reyes said.

Blanco-Maratita said the board will continue to conduct its functions and business, regardless of the absence of a teacher representative.

She explained that teachers will not have an apportunity to be heard by the board.

Blanco-Maratita explained that during each board meeting there is a public comments section wherein any public, including teachers, are given the opportunities to make comments on any proposed regulations through the 30 days comment period as required by law.

"The teachers could also be involved through other means, such as participation through committees, through their principals, or through the PSS commissioner while the appointment of a representative to the Board is being made by the Governor," Blanco-Maratita said.

The governor's special assistant for education, Dan Nielsen, has advised the governor to await guidance from the court and his attorney general's office.

"That is from a legal perspective," Reyes said.

BIRTHDAY BOY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jay Francis Dominic O. Pineda is celebrating his birthday today. Birthday greetings from your family.

TINIAN HOT PEPPER FESTIVAL

Date: February 16 – 17, 2008
Venue: Tachogna Beach
Time: 1:00 PM–10:00 PM Saturday
10:00 AM–10:00 PM Sunday

Featuring

The "Ukelele Wiz Kid" 13-year-old Ryan Imamura from Guam

Cultural Dances

Competitions *– Hot Pepper Eating Contest, Umang Race, Dragon Boat Rowing Contest, Katdun Pika Cooking Contest, Beach Volleyball, Mwarmwar Making Contest, Karaoke Singing Contest, "Do the Cha Cha" Contest & Booth Decoration Competition. Open to the public.*

Other island style musical entertainment *(Local Bands from Tinian & Saipan)*

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Saturday, February 16

1:00 PM	Opening Program Judging of Booths Cultural Dances Taga Cultural Dancers "Guam's Ukalele Wiz Kid" Performance
2:30 PM	Beach Volleyball Competition Band Performance
5:00 PM	Hot Pepper Eating Contest Cultural Dances
6:00-10: 00 PM	Band Members Karaoke Singing Contest

SUNDAY, February 17

10 AM	Opening of Vendor Booths
11:00 AM	Dragon Boat Rowing Contest Mwarmwar Making Contest
12:00 Noon	Katdun Pika Contest
1:00 PM	Championship Games for Beach Volleyball
4:00 PM	Band Performance
5:00 PM	Hot Pepper Eating Contest Cultural Dances "Do the Cha Cha Contest"
8:00-10:00 PM	Band Performance

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Ferry Schedule: From Saipan to Tinian – Friday & Saturday at 5:00 PM, Sunday 9:30 AM
Domestic Air Transportation thru Taga Air & Freedom Air

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Office of the Governor
50 State Quarters® Program

The Office of the Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), is seeking public input on the design of the CNMI Quarter, as provided for by the 50 State Quarters® Program. The 50 State Quarters® Program is a 10-year initiative (1999 - 2008) commemorating each of the 50 United States, as allowed by Public Law 105-124. Narrative design concepts or themes must be submitted by February 15, 2008, to the CNMI Quarter Commission at cnmiquarter@gmail.com.

Design Criteria

The 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act provides for designs to be submitted in accordance with the design selection and approval process developed by and in sole discretion of the Treasury Secretary. Because it is important that the Nation's coinage and currency bear dignified designs of which the citizens of the United States can be proud, the Act further requires that the Secretary shall not select any frivolous or inappropriate design and no head-and-shoulders portrait or bust of any person, living or dead, and no portrait of a living person may be included in the design.

Guidelines

- Designs shall maintain a dignity befitting the Nation's coinage.
- Designs shall have broad appeal to the citizens of the state and avoid controversial subjects or symbols that are likely to offend.
- Suitable subject matter for designs include state landmarks (natural and man-made), landscapes, historically significant buildings, symbols of state resources or industries, official state flora and fauna, state icons (e.g.. Texas Lone Star, Wyoming bronco, etc.), and outlines of the state.
- State flags and state seals are not considered suitable for designs.
- Consistent with the authorizing legislation, the states are encouraged to submit designs that promote the diffusion of knowledge among the youth of the United States about the state, its history and geography, and the rich diversity of our national heritage.
- Priority consideration will be given to designs that are enduring representations of the state. Coins have a commercial life span of at least 30 years and are collected for generations.
- Inappropriate design concepts include, but are not limited to logos or depictions of specific commercial, private, educational, civic, religious, sports, or other organizations whose membership or ownership is not universal.

Additional information about the 50 State Quarters® Program may be found at www.usmint.gov/mint_programs.

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- *Lobster and Shrimp Soup with Coconut and Lemon Grass*
- *Angus Beef Tenderloin poached in Vodka with Herbs Butter Sauce, garnished with Crème Fraiche and Caviar, served on a Sweet Potato Pancake with Pearl Onions*
- *Crepes in Brandy Sauce with Berries & Chantilly Cream*

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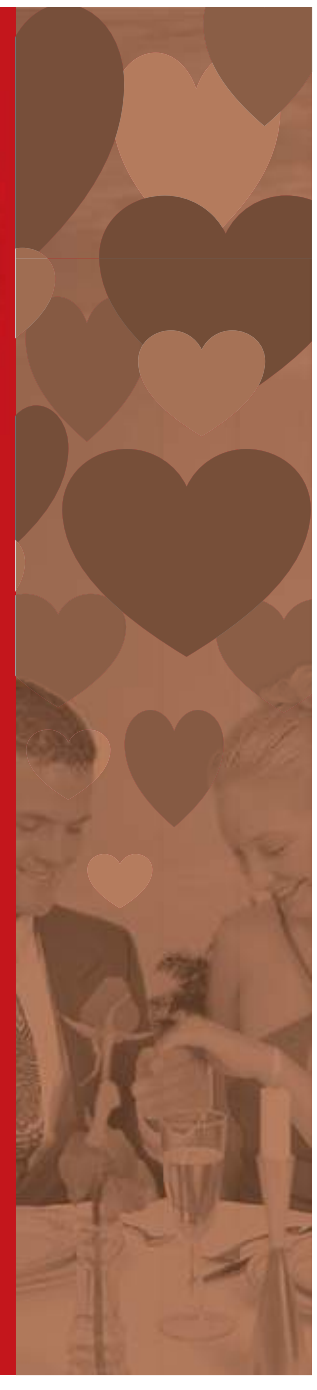

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Easy stimulus

With an economic stimulus package approved by Congress and on its way to the White House for signing, self-congratulation is the order of the day in Washington. "It's tremendous what we've been able to accomplish," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., crowed. "This is the Senate at its finest," said Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. President Bush called the plan "robust, broad-based, timely." Isn't bipartisanship wonderful?

Up to a point. As it finally emerged, the plan goes much of the way toward fulfilling the criteria for effective pump-priming: that it be temporary, targeted toward those most likely to spend and timely — in the sense of delivering cash to households and businesses before any recession has run its course. The two-year cost is $168 billion, with nearly two-thirds of that accounted for by one-time tax rebate checks for 130 million households. This includes disabled veterans and 20 million low-income elderly people who were not part of the original deal between Bush and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., but who were added by the Senate. Higher-income households, which are more likely to save rather than spend the windfall, will not be included; the rebates phase out for people with taxable incomes of more than $75,000 for individuals and $150,000 for couples. And the bill is relatively well focused, notwithstanding Democratic efforts to load it up with home-heating aid and a tax break to help businesses recoup past losses.

The bill could have been worse. But it could have been a lot better, too. Politically, checks for the elderly and veterans were a no-brainer; as economic stimulus, however, they were not clearly preferable to extended unemployment benefits and increased food stamps, both of which Congress rejected. The bill unwisely authorizes Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to back high-cost home loans, exposing the federal government to greater financial risk for the benefit, mainly, of those who buy and sell expensive real estate.

Congress and the president have shown that the two parties can, indeed, agree on a big policy decision swiftly — when it's a decision to hand out money to voters during an election year. The theory of the stimulus package is that it will help blunt any coming recession, after which Congress can return to other issues amid calmer economic conditions. Those issues include health care, entitlement spending and the deficit, none of which can be resolved without a measure of sacrifice. That will be a real test of bipartisanship.

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FIRST, THEY WILL COME AND TAKE OUR LAND...
BUT THEN, HUNDREDS OF YEARS FROM NOW, WE WILL BUILD CASINOS...
AND TAKE AWAY THEIR MONEY.
KOTERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

The nonresident worker in the world

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Presently the CNMI has about 19,000 nonresident workers. The recently passed new labor law will attempt to control better our foreign workers. How to best accommodate nonresident workers is a problem that we have been wrestling with for many years and is one we haven't been able to resolve too well. But let's look at what the rest of the world is doing about the nonresident worker situation. Once we see what other countries are doing and see some of their problems and how they are solving them, we may better understand our own. Here are a few highlights from an article about this worldwide problem.

"The Economist Magazine" of Jan. 5th-11th has a 14-page special report on migration around the world. It deals in depth with the problem of migrating workers affecting many countries. For example, at the last count in 2005, the foreign-born made up 9.7 percent (4,766,466) of the British population which is about 49,138,831 people. In America it is 13 percent (39,430,170) of the population which stands at about 303,309,000 people. These numbers of migrating workers combine both legal and illegal workers. What is interesting also is that countries that had seen only emigration, such as Ireland and Greece, are now seeing immigration of foreign workers. Developing countries are welcoming many migratory workers as their economy expands. They just do not have sufficient local workers.

Most of the illegal people who cross international borders are motivated by economic reasons. While legal migrants are motivated by economic reasons, many also desire to be united with relatives. The total number of both legal and illegal migrants in the world is thought to be perhaps 200,000,000. Migration has become a successful strategy for the world's poor to make their lives better. Those who move from a poor country to a rich one can expect to see their income rise five fold or more.

An interesting point stated that without migrants, many people in the rich world would already be in decline. These fast-changing economies are increasingly demanding highly skilled workers or people willing to do unpleasant and tiring jobs. According to the United Nations, not enough young natives have the right skills or motivation, so the rich must hope that outsiders will keep coming. And they will keep coming.

As South Africa universities churn out graduates, at a fast clip, almost all of the well qualified people promptly leave for Britain or Australia, leaving tens of thousands of jobs unfilled at home. In Morocco, those with science and engineering degrees, computer skills and languages go to France, the Netherlands and Canada. Those in demand abroad are the hardest people to keep at home. Small countries such Jamaica, Trinidad and Senegal have seen half to three-quarters of all their graduates move abroad.

A research group has shown that the foreign-born workers of many ethnic groups are more likely to be better paid than the native workers. Migrants' children do well also. Migrants need health, skills, determination, a willingness to take risks and some entrepreneurial spirit to take the plunge, which marks them out as special people. These migrant workers benefit the economy and permit its faster growth. More people can do more work and many migrants are young adults who are particularly productive. In fact, some economies could not function without foreign workers. In the United Arab Emirates, for instance, they make up an astonishing 85% of the population.

In Britain around half of the new jobs created in Britain are filled by migrants because they have the skills that locals lack from plumbing to banking. Also migrants create jobs because with an ample labor pool investors are encouraged to invest in that country. However where countries have created barriers for migrants to enter their country, as Germany has, there is much complaining about the chronic shortage of skilled workers such as engineers, scientists or programmers.

Migrant workers are plentiful, cheap and cheerful. However the impact on native workers is that they help keep wages low for the unskilled. Worse, say some skeptics, migration may limit poor natives' chances of moving up to better-paid jobs. With changing economies that reward skills, it is getting harder to move up the ladder from low-wage jobs to better-paid ones. Now migrants, especially those with skills and drive, are making life even harder for the weaker natives.

Politicians in many countries are struggling to find ways to control the influx of migratory workers but with little success. For instance, the United States is busily building fences across its border with Mexico. Its effectiveness is yet to be determined. Voters like the idea of tougher borders, but the cost is high and the benefits are limited. However one migration expert in Washington, DC, says that higher walls will keep people in as well as out: "The more that is spent on the border, the more illegal migrants stay here."

The price for smuggling migrants is getting more expensive but is quite lucrative for the smugglers. Morocco to Spain will cost one migrant about $5,000 to $6,000. China to New York will cost about $60,000. The smugglers themselves have become more dangerous with many of them carrying guns and knives. The methods for smuggling people have become more ingenious as well. However many migrants die along the route. Since 2000, in the sector around Tucson, Arizona, alone, some 1,137 bodies have been found. It is believed that there are more bodies lying undiscovered in the Arizona desert.

See THE NONRESIDENT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Grand Old Party, having a grand old time

By ERIC WEINER
Special to The Washington Post

Eric Weiner is the author of The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World. *erweiner@gmail.com*

After virtually ignoring happiness for more than 100 years, social scientists are making up for lost time. They're churning out hundreds of research papers on the subject each year. There are happiness conferences, a Journal of Happiness Studies, a World Database of Happiness. Happy, you might say, is the new sad.

All of this cogitating about contentment has revealed much about who's supposedly happy and who isn't. Most studies show that wealthy people are marginally happier than poor ones. People with pets or children are no happier than those without. People with active sex lives are—surprise!—happier than those without. No single morsel of happiness data, though, is more intriguing than this: Republicans are happier than Democrats.

A 2006 Pew Research poll found that 45 percent of Republicans describe themselves as "very happy," compared with only 30 percent of Democrats (and 29 percent of independents). This is a sizable gap and a remarkably consistent one, too. Republicans have been happier than Democrats every year since the General Social Survey, conducted biannually by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, began asking about happiness in 1972.

What to make of this finding? Is there something about being a card-carrying member of the GOP that induces a warm, fuzzy feeling, a sort of political Prozac? Or does the river of causality flow in the other direction: Are happy people more likely to become Republicans than Democrats? Or maybe neither explanation holds water and it only appears as if Republicans are happier than Democrats.

The most obvious place to look for an explanation is, of course, with money. Wealthy people are marginally happier than poor ones, and Republicans, according to some surveys, tend to be wealthier than Democrats, so that must be why they're happier, right? Nice try, but no dice. Even after adjusting for differences in income, the Pew researchers still found a marked happiness gap: Poor Republicans are, on average, happier than poor Democrats, and wealthy Republicans are happier than wealthy Democrats.

Maybe the answer is power. Republicans have controlled the White House for most of the past 35 years, and nothing spells happiness like p-o-w-e-r. Wrong again. Republican bliss persists even if a Democrat—be it Jimmy Carter or Bill Clinton—resides in the White House.

You can practically hear the researchers at Pew scratching their liberal heads. They put the findings through a rigorous process called multiple-regression analysis to isolate the relevant variables. But try as they might, they could not wash that Republican happiness out of their hair.

Basically, Republicans have in spades all the things that combine to make us happy. Church attendance is particularly crucial. People who attend religious services regularly are more likely to report being "very happy" than those who don't—43 percent vs. 26 percent (a happiness boost, by the way, that cuts across all the major religious denominations). In addition, Republicans are more likely to be married than Democrats, and married people are happier than singles.

When I tell my liberal friends about Republican happiness, they usually reply angrily—angry not being a happy trait. "They're just not paying attention," one friend snapped. "Ignorance is bliss," said another. Or perhaps it's what Ralph Waldo Emerson said, putting it more eloquently and less angrily: "God offers to every mind its choice between truth and repose. Take which you please—you can never have both."

I don't know whether Democrats follow world events more closely than Republicans, but they are, on average, better educated, and that might explain their glumness. People with advanced degrees report being less happy than those with only a bachelor's.

There is something to be said for the under-examined life. Psychologists have found that when it comes to maximizing contentment, a little bit of self-deception goes a long way. Happy people remember events more rosily than they actually happened, while the morose remember the past accurately.

If this isn't depressing enough for liberals, it turns out that some of their own pet policies are to blame for their unhappiness. Once in power, Democrats tend to focus on issues that, according to the science of happiness, have little effect on our contentment—income equality, for instance, and racial diversity. Neither is linked to greater happiness. Countries with large disparities between rich and poor are no less happy than more egalitarian ones, studies have found. And the happiest countries in the world tend to be homogenous ones, such as Denmark and Iceland, not the ethnic melting pots that liberals celebrate.

In any event, Republicans are happy, and that, of course, is a very American thing to be, or at least to strive to be. We Americans have a complex relationship with happiness. Yes, it's in our founding document, but it is perennially elusive, just out of our grasp—a sad fact that Alexis de Tocqueville observed in the 1830s, when he noted that the United States was populated by "so many lucky men restless in the midst of abundance."

We suffer from what the historian Darrin McMahon calls "the unhappiness of not being happy." It is a uniquely American malady. For us, happiness is not a blessing but an expectation.

And we expect it from our politicians. The more optimistic candidate won nine of the 10 elections from 1948 to 1984, according to Martin Seligman, the pooh-bah of the positive-psychology movement. More recent elections have been spottier, but the pattern holds: All things being equal, voters choose the more optimistic candidate.

This may explain why Republicans have dominated presidential elections in the past 40 or so years. They, of course, have as their happy standard-bearer Ronald Reagan, who smilingly urged us to ask ourselves if we were better off (read: happier) than we'd been four years earlier. On the Democrats' side, John F. Kennedy knew how to play the happiness card, but most of his would-be followers haven't. Walter Mondale, Michael Dukakis, John Kerry (Jimmy Carter, too, even though he managed to win an election): Happiness does not come to mind when you think of these people. Only Bill Clinton, with his "bridge to the 21st century" and his "Third Way" (part Democratic technocrat, part Republican mirth), managed to break through the happiness barrier.

So while you might think that the 2008 presidential election hinges on Iraq or the economy or change vs. experience, it doesn't. The real issue—the meta issue—is, as usual, happiness. Which candidate can best convince voters that if elected, he or she will increase their happiness? Which candidate actually seems the happiest, or at least the most optimistic?

Seligman and his colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania have tried to answer that question scientifically, analyzing speeches and other statements by the candidates and assigning each an optimism score. He found that, among Democratic candidates, Hillary Rodham Clinton, not Barack Obama, is the most optimistic. On the Republican side, John McCain and Mitt Romney are equally optimistic, though of course that didn't help the former Massachusetts governor.

Being optimistic helps candidates in two ways. Optimists are able to persevere in times of adversity, so perhaps optimistic candidates are elected because they're able to weather setbacks during the grueling primary season. But there is also, of course, something about an optimistic candidate that voters find irresistible. Psychologists have found that we tend to like more positive people—no surprise there—so that might explain why we vote for the more optimistic candidate.

Nowadays, politicians are hesitant to explicitly utter the H-word, choosing instead to dance around the subject. It's only a matter of time, though, before Republicans begin to crow about their happiness. "They can say, `Look, I'm not being a stuffy, old-fashioned conservative,' " says Will Wilkinson, a policy analyst with the libertarian Cato Institute. "There is real science that shows that if you go to church, if you don't get divorced, you'll be happier. That's tempting to any politician."

There is, though, an exception to the Happy Republicans trend. More Democrats than Republicans say they're excited about the current election, according to an Associated Press-Yahoo News survey conducted in November, and Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say that the election season leaves them frustrated and bored. Might Democrats be on the verge of transforming themselves into the party of happiness? If so, that would be the ultimate flip-flop.

Letters to the Editor

Local community needs autism awareness

There are voices in our community waiting to be heard. Unfortunately, many of these voices cannot speak for themselves and we feel that we are obligated to speak on their behalf. As mothers of children with autism, we feel we must speak out about the issues that we are facing and we seek the community's help to help our children.

In our community, there is a small, but growing population of children with autism or a related spectrum disorder. In the CNMI, we have 77 children "officially" diagnosed with autism. This number does not include the children who have been diagnosed with multiple disabilities that include autism and it also does not include the children who have yet to be diagnosed.

Autism is a neurological developmental disorder that affects social interaction, communication skills, behavior and more. The symptoms of autism vary from person to person and can range from that of very severe to mild. It is important to note that autism can affect people of any race, ethnicity, religion or financial background. Autism does not discriminate against who it hits and no one knows why autism affects one individual and not another.

As mothers of children with autism, we felt that there is an urgent need to prepare our community for the needs of the individuals with autism that are already in our community and those individuals who will be part of our community in the future. Both of us have tried and have been met with stumbling blocks and resistance as we have tried to get a basic education for our children. Ultimately, we realize that there is a need for public policy that will mandate that the CNMI not forget our children and help us to help our children.

Federal laws pertaining to educating children with disabilities contain the necessary provisions for ensuring rights to appropriate education for children with autistic spectrum disorders. The difficulty that needs to be addressed is at the local level. We feel that a strong coordination of services and funding at federal and local levels should be encouraged through several mechanisms. First and foremost, there is a need for the creation of a local agency task force on autistic spectrum disorders, (i.e., parents (who consist of the majority), policymakers, educators, pediatricians, service providers, etc). Second, there should be a mandated state monitoring of coordination among service delivery systems to ensure that everyone involved in the delivery of services to our children is providing the service they are mandated to perform. Third, there is a need for the availability of ombudspersons within school systems who are knowledgeable about autism spectrum disorders and are independent of the school program. If you would like more information and/or are interested in helping us in this effort, please send an email to marissa.f.guerrero@gmail.com or larrisa.larson@gmail.com.

Marissa F. Guerrero
Larrisa C. Larson
Via e-mail

THE NONRESIDENT

From Page 10

In 1907, in America it is estimated that a total sum of $275 million dollars was remitted back home to the migrants' families. Today that figure is estimated to be about $240 billion dollars to $300 billion dollars per year. This is causing alarm in the Western World because of the fear of money laundering by terrorists. Keeping track of all this flow of money is an impossible task.

In the last paragraph of the article the writer sums up several main points in discussion about the importance of migratory workers.

"The moral case for migration is incontrovertible: it greatly lessens human misery. But the economic case needs to be made more forcefully. The cultural gains from migrants are obvious too. Over the past few decades the freer movement of capitaland traded goods has brought enormous gains to human welfare. Similar benefits can be expected from a freer flow of people…. In the longer term, migrants will be essential to supplement shrinking native workforces. The question currently being asked in the rich world—whether immigration rates are unsustainably high—may be the wrong one. Perhaps they are not nearly high enough."

The above are just a few selected ideas extracted from the 14-page article. It is vital to realize that the CNMI is not unique in its migratory worker problem. The entire world is on the move with its entire people seeking a better life. The problem is how to best accommodate each countries' needs while keeping a balance between native workers and migratory workers. The CNMI is caught squarely in the middle of this dilemma. Let's hope we learn to control it better while reaping its many benefits.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers
▲86° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°	▲81° ▼73°	▲81° ▼73°	▲80° ▼73°

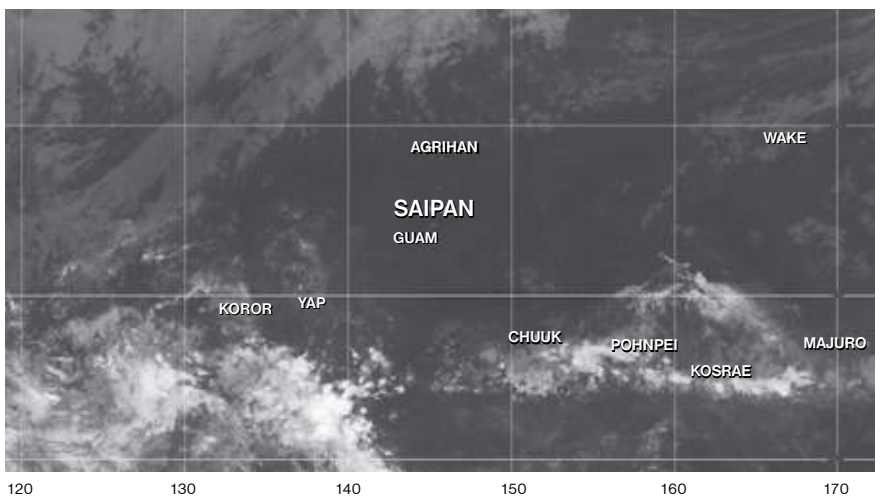
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲90	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲76	▼63
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲28	▼10
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲61	▼52
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲78	▼69
London	Mostly Sunny	▲56	▼44
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼52
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼72
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼62
Miami	Cloudy	▲76	▼67
New York	Partly Sunny	▲32	▼24
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲50	▼38
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲53	▼37
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲46	▼23
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲50	▼32
Salem	Cloudy	▲51	▼37
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼46
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲37	▼16
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲49	▼37
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲37	▼24

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, FEB. 10, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N180 to north of Wake Island at 20N166E to 21N158E then continues northwestward as a warm front to 25N148E and beyond. Extensive cloudiness and rain are found along and up to 250 miles north of the cold front. Patchy clouds and scattered showers are present along and up 200 miles north of the warm front. Another cold front runs southwestward from 25N140E to 21N130E. A large area of low clouds and rain are seen north of this boundary to beyond 25n. A shear line reaches southwestward from 25N141E to 15N130E and beyond. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are occurring along and up to 200 miles northwest of this feature. A near-equatorial trough stretches southeastward from a weak circulation centered at 4N129E to end at EQ140E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are forming north of the trough axis from Koror to the equator or between 8N and the equator from 130E to 142E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from Chuuk across Pohnpei and Kosrae within 60 miles of a line from 7N152E to 5N165E. Scattered showers are also visible south of Majuro to the dateline within 50 miles of a line from 5N165E to 5N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
04:16AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
10:32AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
05:04PM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:48PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:44AM	6:19PM
Tuesday	6:43AM	6:19PM
Wednesday	6:43AM	6:20PM
Thursday	6:42AM	6:20PM
Friday	6:42AM	6:21PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	09:19AM	10:02PM
Tuesday	10:01AM	11:00PM
Wednesday	10:46AM	
Thursday	11:36AM	12:00AM*
Friday	12:31PM	01:04AM

*following day**

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 2, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota				
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7	
Saipan-Guam				
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily	
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6	
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7	via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily	
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily	
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	
Saipan-Narita				
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya	
NW 075	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily	
Saipan-Osaka				
NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily	
Saipan-Nagoya				
NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily	
Saipan-Manila				
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6	
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3	
Saipan-Seoul				
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1	
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7	
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7	
Saipan-Busan				
OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7	
Saipan-Guanzhou				
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6	
Saipan-Shanghai				
MU 590	4:20am	7:00am	2,6	
Saipan-Beijing				
CA 988	3:15am	7:00am	1,5	
Guam-Manila				
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror	
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6	
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7	
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror	
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily	
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7	
Guam-Hongkong				
CO 909	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5	
Guam-Rota				
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6	

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan				
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6	
Guam-Saipan				
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily	
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily	
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6	via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7	
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily	
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily	
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily	
Narita-Saipan				
NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily	
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya	
Osaka-Saipan				
NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily	
Nagoya-Saipan				
NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily	
Manila-Saipan				
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6	
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3	
Seoul-Saipan				
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7	
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6	
Busan-Saipan				
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7	
Guanzhou-Saipan				
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5	
Shanghai-Saipan				
MU 589	8:05pm	3:00am+1	1,5	
Beijing-Saipan				
CA 987	6:05pm	1:55am+1	4,7	
Manila-Guam				
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7	
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6	
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror	
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap	
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror	
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily	
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7	
Hongkong-Guam				
CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5	
Rota-Guam				
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7	

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950

NOTICES FROM THE LABOR DEPARTMENT

LABOR DEPARTMENT NOTICES WILL BE PRINTED IN THE NEWSPAPERS AND POSTED ON MONDAYS. ANYONE WITH PENDING MATTERS BEFORE THE LABOR DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE SURE TO CHECK THE NEWSPAPERS ON MONDAYS. ALL CURRENT NOTICES WILL BE POSTED AT THE LABOR DEPARTMENT, SECOND FLOOR, AFETNA SQUARE BUILDING, SAN ANTONIO. REPRESENTATIVES, TRANSLATORS, AND PARTIES WITH PENDING MATTERS BEFORE THE LABOR DEPARTMENT WHO DO NOT USE NEWSPAPERS SHOULD BE SURE TO CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARDS AT THE LABOR DEPARTMENT.

* * *

ANYONE WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S NEW WEBSITE, www.marianaslabor.net MAY CONTACT webmaster@marianaslabor.net. Use of the website is free.

NOTICE OF HEARINGS
PENDING LABOR CASES

Monday, Feb. 11, 2008 first notice
Monday, Feb. 18 second notice

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Your claims will be heard at that time or continued to a date certain. Please bring any documentation necessary to the resolution of your claims or defenses to claims against you. If you fail to appear, or fail to bring documentation, your claims or defenses may be dismissed, and an administrative order may be entered against you.

THESE HEARINGS ARE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLARIFYING DEPARTMENT RECORDS WITH RESPECT TO PENDING CLAIMS. If your claims have been heard, settled, or withdrawn, or you do not wish to pursue your claim, you do not need to appear for the hearings on the schedule below.

If your case has already been resolved through a hearing on an individual labor case, the order in that case is binding and there will be no different resolution through the hearing listed below case. If your case has been resolved through a settlement, or you are a claimant and wish to withdraw your claims, please call Jeffrey Camacho, Investigator, 236-0960, or come to the Enforcement Office at the Department of Labor.

THIS NOTICE IS POSTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

Case Number	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
05-085	Abella, Adelaida D.	Juan T. Guerrero & Assoc.	Mar. 07, 2008	9:00 a.m
98-101-04	Alam, Md. Monzurul	Nelia D. Lozano dba Seiko Employment Services	Mar. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-034	Ali, Agzar	Aguon, Jose C. dba Payogo Asi Charcoal	Mar. 06, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-061	Anbedor, Renaluz L.	Sako Corporation	Mar. 07, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-112	Aquino, Lucila G.	Reyes, Ruth P. dba L Vira Fashion	Mar. 07, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-268	Bai, Yu	Winner's Corporation	Mar. 10, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-261	Bai, Zhe	Yun's Corporation	Mar. 10, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-054	Baldo, Jenny G.	Jin Ah Corp. dba Dandan Golf Driving Range	Mar. 07, 2008	9:00 a.m
98-101-04	Bhuiyan, Md. Nasrul H.	Nelia D. Lozano dba Seiko Employment Services	Mar. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-061	Cado, Marlene V.	Sako Corporation	Mar. 07, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-076	Cai, Lian	Marianas Fashion, Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-321	Cao, Jun Xian	Winner's Corporation	Mar. 10, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-104	Chai, Bing Xiu	L and T Int'l. Corp.	Mar. 07, 2008	9:00 a.m
05-384	Changwei, Hu	Dai Development Corp.	Mar. 06, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-275	Chen, Chunmei	Jin Apparel Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	9:00 a.m
05-139	Chen, Feifei	Dela Rosa, William	Mar. 06, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-171	Chen, Gang	BQF Services Inc.	Mar. 06, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-304	Chen, Huadong	Aloha Corporation	Mar. 06, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-148	Chen, Jinkun	United Int'l Corp.	Mar. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-275	Chen, Meijun	Jin Apparel Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	9:00 a.m
98-417	Chen, Sanzhong	American Langente Corporation	Mar. 06, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-306	Chen, Silong	United Int'l Corp.	Mar. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-047	Chen, Yueping	Far Ocean Corp. dba Diamond Karaoke	Mar. 06, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-315	Chen, Zhongye	Li's Corp.	Mar. 07, 2008	9:00 a.m
05-354	Chunya, Lin	Rifu Apparel, Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-061	Dela Cruz, Dionesia S.	Sako Corporation	Mar. 07, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-049	Estoque, Rodrigo P.	Aquino Printing Co. dba Express Printing	Mar. 06, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-317	Gao, Yanying	Sako Corporation	Mar. 07, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-274	Gonzales, Baby B.	Reyes, Joaquin T.	Mar. 07, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-352	Guintu, Ramon F.	Sakisat, Raymond H.	Mar. 07, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-345	Guo, Xiuping	Greate Corporation	Mar. 06, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-317	Han, Fang	Sako Corporation	Mar. 07, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-058	He, Deina	Winner's Corporation	Mar. 10, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-143	He, Tong Bo	US CNMI- Dev. Corp.	Mar. 10, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-249	He, Zheng Xia	Zhang's Corporation	Mar. 10, 2008	10:00 a.m.
98-101-04	Hossain, Alam	Nelia D. Lozano dba Seiko Employment Services	Mar. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
98-101-04	Hossain, Alamgir	Nelia D. Lozano dba Seiko Employment Services	Mar. 10, 20088	11:00 a.m.
05-186	Huang, Li	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	Mar. 06, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-069	Huang, Rumei	Liya Import and Export Corp.	Mar. 07, 2008	9:00 a.m
05-150	Huang, Suping	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	Mar. 06, 2008	10:00 a.m.
98-101-04	Huo, Kazi A.	Nelia D. Lozano dba Seiko Employment Services	Mar. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-031	Islam, Md. Siful	Micro Pacific, Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	10:00 a.m.
03-032-05	Islam, Shafiquoul	Sako Corporation	Mar. 07, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-317	Jia, Yun Hong	Sako Corporation	Mar. 07, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-401	Jiang, Deke	Yodan Ent. Inc.	Mar. 10, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-022	Jiang, Hua Ying	Asia Pacific Overseas, Ltd.	Mar. 06, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-166	Jiang, Lirong	New Echo Ent. Corp.	Mar. 07, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-376	Jiang, Wenqing	Micro Pacific Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-288	Jin, Jingji	Hyunjin Saipan Inc.	Mar. 06, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-289	Jin, Ri	Park's Professional Corp.	Mar. 07, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-051	Ju, Dong Mei	Rifu Apparel, Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-399	Kairos Ent. Inc.	Kairos Ent. Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	9:00 a.m
05-103	Kang, Aihong	United Int'l Corp.	Mar. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-317	Leng, Wen Xia	Sako Corporation	Mar. 07, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-278	Li, Bohu	Aldan, Vicente M.	Mar. 06, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-125	Li, Chang Gui	Everbright Company Ltd.	Mar. 06, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-278	Li, Guangzhao	Aldan, Vicente M.	Mar. 06, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-394	Li, Hongxia	Greate Corporation	Mar. 06, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-055	Li, Jidi	Far Ocean Corp.	Mar. 06, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-356	Li, Minglong	Aldan, Vicente M.	Mar. 06, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-327	Li, Ping	Greate Corporation	Mar. 06, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-108	Li, Qiaofeng	Aldan, Vicente M.	Mar. 06, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-353	Li, Yanling	BQF Services Inc.	Mar. 06, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-246	Li, Yun Qiang	Hopewell Corporation	Mar. 06, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-336	Li, Zhen	Dafa Corporation	Mar. 06, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-156	Liang, Fushi	Winners II Corp.	Mar. 10, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-209	Liang, Jie	Aguon, Rainaldo C.	Mar. 06, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-301	Lin, Fen Juan	Rifu Apparel, Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-177	Lin, Hong Mei	I&J Corp.	Mar. 07, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-387	Lin, Hui	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	Mar. 06, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-137	Lin, Xiao Feng	Dong Hao Piao & Josephine Dela Cruz	Mar. 06, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-179	Liu, Renqing	BQF Services Inc.	Mar. 06, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-182	Liu, Wen Xiang	BQF Services Inc.	Mar. 06, 20088	10:00 a.m.
05-216	Lua, Vivian E.	Sheu's Brothers Holding Co., Ltd.	Mar. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-398	Luo, Guorong	Sun Mei Corp.	Mar. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.

Case Number	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
05-190	Ma, Hongrong	US CNMI- Dev. Corp.	Mar. 10, 2008	10:00 a.m.
98-101-04	Miah, Md. Alam	Nelia D. Lozano dba Seiko Employment Services	Mar. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-368	Micronesian Brokers Inc. (ER)	Doila, Maria M. (EE)	Mar. 06, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-299	Mo, Guiying	Winner's Corporation	Mar. 10, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-042	Ou, Chunming	Marianas Fashion, Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-061	Pangilinan, Federico P.	Sako Corporation	Mar. 07, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-336	Peng, Shue Xiong	Dafa Corporation	Mar. 06, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-172	Qian, Guoqiang	United Int'l Corp.	Mar. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-240	Qian, Meiling	Song Yong Jun Dba Banana Karaoke Bar	Mar. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-350	Qian, Xiaoli	Grace Int'l Inc.	Mar. 06, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-339	Qiao, Liyan	Marianas Garment MFG Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-056	Qin, Ai Rong	Far Ocean Corp. dba Diamond Karaoke	Mar. 06, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-317	Qu, Zhi Yun	Sako Corporation	Mar. 07, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-178	Quan, Yu	Top Fashion Corp.	Mar. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
98-101-04	Rahim, Md. Abdur	Nelia D. Lozano dba Seiko Employment Services	Mar. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
98-101-04	Rahman, Latifur	Nelia D. Lozano dba Seiko Employment Services	Mar. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
98-101-04	Ranjit	Nelia D. Lozano dba Seiko Employment Services	Mar. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
98-101-04	Rashid, Harun Ur	Nelia D. Lozano dba Seiko Employment Services	Mar. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
98-101-04	Sen, Prabir	Nelia D. Lozano dba Seiko Employment Services	Mar. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-200	Shen, Hua Feng	Angel Wings Inc.	Mar. 06, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-253	Song, Xiaowei	Top Fashion Inc.	Mar. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-137	Song, Zhiqing	Dong Hao Piao & Josephine Dela Cruz	Mar. 06, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-409	Su, Yufang	Aldan, Vicente M.	Mar. 06, 2008	9:00 a.m.
98-101-04	Taher, Md Abu	Nelia D. Lozano dba Seiko Employment Services	Mar. 10, 20088	11:00 a.m.
05-405	Tao, Chonghua	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	Mar. 06, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-061	Taraya, Rosalinda R.	Sako Corporation	Mar. 07, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-317	Tong, Yu Xui	Sako Corporation	Mar. 07, 2008	12:00 p.m.
98-101-04	Uddin, Md. Giash	Nelia D. Lozano dba Seiko Employment Services	Mar. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
98-101-04	Uddin, Mohammed S.	Nelia D. Lozano dba Seiko Employment Services	Mar. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
98-101-04	Ullah, Md. Shafi	Nelia D. Lozano dba Seiko Employment Services	Mar. 10, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-283	Wang, Chun Hui	BQF Services Inc.	Mar. 06, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-132	Wang, Chun Yan	Joo Ang Apparel Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	9:00 a.m
05-308	Wang, Hongzheng	United Int'l Corp.	Mar. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-228	Wang, Xiao Wei	Hyunjin Saipan Inc.	Mar. 06, 2008	12:00 p.m.
03-080-10	Wang, Yan	Hip Shing (Saipan), Inc.	Mar. 06, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-404	Wu, Xiaowen	Mirage Saipan Company, Ltd.	Mar. 07, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-180	Wu, Xie Yan	US CNMI- Dev. Corp.	Mar. 10, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-193	Wu, Zhangxia	Rifu Apparel, Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-244	Wu, Zhen Ming	Chen's Corporation	Mar. 06, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-379	Xie, Guang Qing	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	Mar. 06, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-360	Xie, Meiqiong	Aloha Corporation	Mar. 06, 2008	9:00 a.m.
04-035-07	Xu, Jin	American Langente Corp. dba Tom's Tofu MFG	Mar. 06, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-098	Xu, Rong Fang	RR Corporation	Mar. 07, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-232	Xu, Shu Jian	Jin Apparel Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	9:00 a.m
03-119	Xu, Yanhong	Marianas Garment MFG, Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-107	Xu, Yi Ming	Rifu Apparel, Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-050	Yang, Bao Guo	United Int'l Corp.	Mar. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-160	Ye, Shui Yuan	New Times Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-286	Yin, Chunhua	Hyunjin Saipan Inc.	Mar. 06, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-146	Yu, Shu Xia	Micro Pacific Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-278	Zeng, Guifang	Aldan, Vicente M.	Mar. 06, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-181	Zeng, Yong Qing	BQF Services Inc.	Mar. 06, 2008	10:00 a.m.
03-193	Zhang, Dao Chang	Nick's & Michael's Corp.	Mar. 07, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-097	Zhang, Fukui	Sako Corporation	Mar. 07, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-030	Zhang, Kunnian	Mirage Saipan Company, Ltd.	Mar. 07, 2008	10:00 a.m.
04-552	Zhang, Lin	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	Mar. 06, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-091	Zhang, Mingxia	Rifu Apparel, Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-131	Zhang, Xuehua	Top Fashion Corp.	Mar. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-361	Zhang, Yumei	Saipan Fashion Comp.	Mar. 07, 2008	12:00 p.m.
05-236	Zhao, Chun	US CNMI Dev. Corp.	Mar. 10, 20088	10:00 a.m.
05-380	Zhao, Weiwei	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	Mar. 06, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-270	Zheng, Jincan	Blue Pattern Corp	Mar. 06, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-211	Zheng, Jinshu	United Int'l Corp.	Mar. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
98-417	Zheng, Jintai	American Langente Corporation	Mar. 06, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-110	Zhong, Qin	Rifu Apparel, Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	11:00 a.m.
05-082	Zhou, Hailan	United Int'l Corp.	Mar. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-309	Zhou, Qingchuan	United Int'l Corp.	Mar. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-138	Zhou, Yan	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.	Mar. 06, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-363	Zhu, Aiqin	United Int'l Corp.	Mar. 10, 2008	9:00 a.m.
05-003	Zhu, Huihu	Mirage Saipan Company, Ltd.	Mar. 07, 2008	10:00 a.m.
05-093	Zhu, Liang Qiu	Michigan, Inc.	Mar. 07, 2008	10:00 a.m.

Business

Yahoo board to spurn $44B Microsoft bid

AP

Yahoo CEO Jerry Yang gives a keynote address at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, in this Jan. 7, 2008 file photo. Yahoo Inc.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Yahoo Inc.'s board will reject Microsoft Corp.'s $44.6 billion takeover bid after concluding the unsolicited offer undervalues the slumping Internet pioneer, a person familiar with the situation said Saturday.

The decision could provoke a showdown between two of the world's most prominent technology companies with Internet search leader Google Inc. looming in the background. Leery of Microsoft expanding its turf on the Internet, Google already has offered to help Yahoo avert a takeover and urged antitrust regulators to take a hard look at the proposed deal.

If the world's largest software maker wants Yahoo badly enough, Microsoft could try to override Yahoo's board by taking its offer—originally valued at $31 per share—directly to the shareholders. Pursuing that risky route probably will require Microsoft to attempt to oust Yahoo's current 10-member board.

Alternatively, Microsoft could sweeten its bid. Many analysts believe Microsoft is prepared to offer as much as $35 per share for Yahoo, which still boasts one of the Internet's largest audiences and most powerful advertising vehicles despite a prolonged slump that has hammered its stock.

Yahoo's board reached the decision after exploring a wide variety of alternatives during the past week, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press. The person didn't want to be identified because the reasons for Yahoo's rebuff won't be officially spelled out until Monday morning.

Microsoft and Yahoo declined to comment Saturday on the decision, first reported by The Wall Street Journal on its Web site.

Yahoo's board concluded Microsoft's offer is inadequate even though the company couldn't find any other potential bidders willing to offer a higher price.

Without other suitors on the horizon, Yahoo has had little choice but to turn a cold shoulder toward Microsoft if the board hopes to fulfill its responsibility to fetch the highest price possible for the company, said technology investment banker Ken Marlin.

Rebates could stave off long recession

WASHINGTON (AP)—Despite remarkably quick passage, the economic aid plan and its cash rebates may come too late to prevent a recession this year. For many experts, however, the $168 billion boost to the lagging economy may mean the difference between a short downturn and something much more serious.

The measure that President Bush plans to sign this coming week will send government payments to more than 130 million people. Checks that will start showing up in mailboxes in May range from $300 to $1,200; households with children get an additional $300 per child. Businesses benefit, too, through tax breaks to increase investment spending on plants and equipment.

The tax relief is intended to jump-start the economy. Politicians, worried about a recession in an election year, put aside their normal bickering to speed the proposal through Congress.

Nonetheless, there is debate over how effective it will be. Critics say debt-burdened consumers will use the money to pay bills rather than spending the checks and spurring growth.

G-7 nations pledge to steady markets

TOKYO (AP)—The world's top economies on Saturday promised coordinated action to restore confidence in global markets as financial turmoil slows U.S. growth, but with each country having different priorities, they didn't offer a specific remedy.

The Group of Seven industrialized countries warned of risks in the troubled American economy and housing sector, but leavened that with assurances that the world's biggest economy would grow this year, albeit at a slower pace.

World financial markets have been battered amid worries about a possible U.S. recession and uncertainty about the subprime mortgage crisis that has led to billions in losses at major banks. A main thrust of Saturday's meeting was to reassure the world that the U.S. wasn't in recession.

"I believe that we're going to keep growing," said U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson. "If you're growing, you're not in recession."

The officials—from the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada—pledged to take actions on their own and together to "secure stability and growth in our economies," without outlining specifics.

The G-7 had faced calls for increased coordinated action to deal with the U.S. housing problems in subprime mortgage loans, financial market turmoil, heightened inflation expectations, and high oil and commodity prices.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
State Board of Education
Public School System
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 08-017

The Public School System and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Construction of a Concrete One Story Building for the San Antonio Head Start Center**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-017" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than March 11, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-017, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (1-original and one copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the PSS Conference Room, 3rd Floor NMI Retirement Fund Building, on February 26, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Pre-Bid Conference Schedule is subject to change.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl Dela Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their bid, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. Dela Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P & S Officer

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Accused French trader's comrade released

PARIS (AP)—A trader at the French bank Societe Generale was released without charge Saturday after two days of questioning about the case of jailed fellow trader Jerome Kerviel. The bank employee, also a trader, was freed after being questioned Saturday by judges specializing in financial affairs, said Isabelle Montagne, a spokeswoman for the Paris prosecutors' office. He had been detained since Thursday. "He has left; he's free; he was not presented with preliminary charges," Montagne told The Associated Press. She declined to identify the brokerage employee. Societe Generale—one of France's biggest banks—announced Jan. 24 that it lost $7.09 billion in cleaning up unauthorized transactions made by Kerviel, 31. He had bet $73 billion—more than the market value of the entire bank—on futures in European equity markets. The bank said Kerviel overstepped his authority and also said he did not appear to have profited personally from the trades.

A wave of matchups on deck for airlines?

DALLAS (AP)—The Delta-Northwest combination inching toward completion would create a new world leader, leapfrogging American Airlines and the Air France-KLM tandem in passenger traffic, but would also likely trigger a chain reaction of other deals, with unknown consequences for travelers. The next potential deal in line—United and Continental—would be even bigger, and other pairings are likely too as carriers bulk up to compete in the new, more competitive global airline industry. Executives at the big airlines believe that unless you have lots of planes flying at convenient times to many cities, valued corporate travelers won't remember you the next time they book a flight. The economics of the airline industry also are driving carriers into each others' arms. High fuel prices are causing many airlines to lose money, and the threat of recession makes the outlook even more grim. Airlines have raised fares, but not enough to offset fuel. Conventional wisdom holds that in mergers, airlines could reduce overlapping routes and raise prices.

Car dealers prep for lousy year

DETROIT (AP)—When thousands of U.S. auto dealers gather in San Francisco this weekend, much of the talk will be about just getting through 2008. The obstacles include a shaky economy, volatile stock market and tightening credit, setting up what economists are predicting could be the worst sales year in more than a decade. With word Friday that Chrysler may have plans to thin its dealership ranks and the other two U.S.-based automakers looking to do the same, those left to sell another day may end up stronger—and car buyers may benefit as well. "Fewer dealers means better prices for the customers," said Gerald Meyers, a former chairman of American Motors Corp. who now teaches leadership at the University of Michigan.

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND TO SUSPEND PROCESSING OF MEMBERS' BENEFITS BR08-001

WHEREAS, the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund ("Retirement Fund") was statutorily created as a pension system to provide retirement security and other benefits to retired, qualified prior and present Northern Mariana Island Government ("Government") employees and their eligible dependents ("members");

WHEREAS, the Retirement Fund is to provide for an actuarially sound, locally funded pension system in accord with the constitutional provisions protecting members' rights;

WHEREAS, the Northern Mariana Island Constitution ("Constitution") protects the accrued benefits of the Retirement Fund's pension system from being diminished and/or impaired;

WHEREAS, the United States and Northern Mariana Islands Constitution prohibits the enactment of laws impairing the obligation of the contracts;

WHEREAS, there is a statutorily created contract between the Government and the Retirement Fund, for the purpose of providing a retirement or pension system for the intended, third party contractual beneficiaries -- i.e. members;

WHEREAS, the members have a membership in the Retirement Fund system that constitutes a contractual relationship between members and the Retirement Fund;

WHEREAS, the Government is required by law to provide employer contributions to the Retirement Fund set by a Retirement Fund approved actuary;

WHEREAS, the Retirement Fund has received less than its full share of contractually bargained for Employer's Contributions from the Government, on an intermittent and/or continuous basis since calendar year 2001;

WHEREAS, the Retirement Fund has received less than its full share of the purportedly budgeted amounts from the Government who failed to remit payment of the statutorily mandated thirty percent (30%) of the hotel occupancy taxes and twenty percent (20%) of the alcoholic container excise taxes collected to finance the members' Group Health and Life Insurance (GHLI) program and their Annual Cost of Living Allowance increases as well as to ensure the Fund's actuarial soundness since 1995;

WHEREAS, the failure of the Government since on or about January 13, 2006 to remit the bi-weekly payments of FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ($500,000.00) toward reducing the arrearage of employer contributions owed to the Retirement Fund pursuant to a duly executed Memorandum of Agreement between the Government and the Retirement Fund;

WHEREAS, the Retirement Fund has received less than its full share of the past amounts necessary to provide for the Early Retirement Bonus;

WHEREAS, the Retirement Fund has received less than its full share of the Government's continued shortfall funding of the Special Benefit for Governors and Lieutenant Governors allotments for past or previous NMI Governors and Lt. Governors;

WHEREAS, the Government and the Legislature have gone to the extraordinary step of passing a law suspending the Government's Employer Contributions for FY 2006 and FY 2007;

WHEREAS, the Legislature overrode the Governor's veto and enacted Public Law 15-98, allowing Retirement Fund members with not more than 15 years of service to withdraw their contribution to the Fund with interest;

WHEREAS, the enactment of Public Law 15-98 will force the Retirement Fund to liquidate investments in order to meet the cash demands necessary to comply with the law;

WHEREAS, the Retirement Fund has already fallen below a level of forty percent (40%) total funded accrued actuarial liability of the total obligation of the Fund within the last five (5) years, is currently only forty-six percent (46%) funded, and has consistently failed to reach a level of fifty percent (50%) total funded accrued actuarial liability of the total obligation of the Fund since fiscal year 2000;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Retirement Fund are the governing body responsible for the direction and operation of the affairs and business of the Retirement Fund;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Retirement Fund has a fiduciary duty to protect and prudently invest the assets of the Retirement Fund for the members' benefit; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has been for years gravely concerned that the Retirement Fund has been and is severely diminished and/or impaired by the acts or omissions of the Government and the Legislature;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Retirement Fund Board of Trustees, in upholding their fiduciary duty of protecting the Retirement Fund's assets for the members' benefits, intends to direct the Retirement Fund to immediately suspend processing all applications for retirement or any other benefits of any Retirement Fund member with deficient employer contribution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution will be distributed to all Government agencies, the Legislature, the Judiciary and all branches, departments, agencies, instrumentalities, public corporations, municipalities, political subdivisions and the Office of the Washington Representative.

The undersigned duly appointed and authorized representatives of the Retirement Fund, a Public, autonomous agency duly formed pursuant to the laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands hereby certify that the foregoing is an officially sanctioned resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Retirement Fund, held in accordance with NMI laws and procedures on November 20, 2007, and that said resolution is now in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have executed our names as members of the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees and have hereunto affixed the corporate seal of the NMI Retirement Fund this 20th day of November 2007.

Juan T. Guerrero, Chairman

Bernadita C. Palacios, Member

Rose L. Igitol, Member

Pedro Q. Dela Cruz, Member

Oscar C. Camacho, Vice Chair

Juan SN Lizama, Member

Bertha C. Leon Guerrero

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Churches vital after deadly storms

LAFAYETTE, Tenn. (AP)—On the way to this storm-ravaged community, a billboard bubbling with fresh paste rises over a rural road with a message from the Gospel of Matthew: "Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted." In Macon County and other predominantly Christian areas where tornadoes laid a deadly path, churches—and individuals' faith—are playing a vital role in the aftermath. Faith is a way of life here. Many have volunteered services, opened disaster centers with food and shelter, clothing and medicine, while those who escaped death when so many did not say they are finding hope in stories of survival. "I was in a tornado—and I lived," said James Krueger, a 49-year-old electrician, as tears streamed from his eyes blackened in the storm. When the winds hit, his 100-year-old home flew from the foundation until he lay on barren ground. It was an unlikely survival he cannot help but attribute to a higher power. "The bottom line is something kept me there," he said, shaking his head in disbelief.

Gay Mormons seek meeting with new leader

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A group of gay Mormons is seeking an unprecedented meeting with the new church president and his counselors, hoping to begin a conversation and find ways to address the concerns of its members. Affirmation, with more than 2,000 gay, lesbian and transgender members, is not recognized by the church, which at one time labeled homosexuality as a problem that required help. "Although there are many areas of hurt and disagreement that have separated us, there are many more areas on which we can find agreement, and in doing so, become a blessing in the lives of many of the Saints, both straight and gay," the group wrote in its invitation to Thomas S. Monson last week. Monson assumed leadership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints last Sunday following the death of its previous president, Gordon B. Hinckley.

Mob tied to big NYC construction jobs

NEW YORK (AP)—The trucks that rolled into Staten Island left more than dirt at the site of a new NASCAR racetrack. They also brought cash for the Gambino crime family, prosecutors say. It was all part of the cost of doing business at construction sites around the area that prosecutors say were rampant with mob corruption. The shakedowns were outlined in a sweeping indictment this week that led to the arrests of dozens of mobsters on charges including murder, gambling, drug dealing and credit-card fraud. It was one of the largest mob crackdowns in recent memory. The extortion in the construction industry—described mostly in the indictment by an informant who paid off the mob on jobs for his trucking, cement and excavation businesses—prove that organized crime's ties to construction are as strong as ever, observers say. "It's still a major problem in the construction industry," said Randy Mastro, a former federal prosecutor who also targeted mob ties to construction as a deputy mayor with Rudy Giuliani. "It's like rat infestation in the city. ... Somehow they reproduce and come back."

Obama sweeps 3 states, Virgin Islands

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Barack Obama swept the Louisiana primary and caucuses in Nebraska and Washington state Saturday night, slicing into Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's slender delegate lead in their historic race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The Illinois senator also won caucuses in the Virgin Islands, completing his best night of the campaign.

"Today, voters from the West Coast to the Gulf Coast to the heart of America stood up to say 'yes we can'" Obama told a cheering audience of Democrats at a party dinner in Richmond, Va.

He jabbed simultaneously at Clinton and Arizona Sen. John McCain, saying the election was a choice between debating the Republican nominee-in-waiting "about who has the most experience in Washington, or debating him about who's most likely to change Washington. Because that's a debate we can win."

Clinton preceded Obama to the podium. She did not refer to the night's voting, instead turning against McCain. "We have tried it President Bush's way," she said, "and now the Republicans have chosen more of the same."

She left quickly after her speech, departing before Obama's arrival. But his supporters made their presence known, sending up chants of "Obama" from the audience as she made her way offstage.

AP

Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., makes remarks at the Virginia Democratic Party Jefferson Jackson Day Dinner Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008, in Richmond, Va.

Obama's winning margins ranged from substantial to crushing.

He won roughly two-thirds of the vote in Washington state and Nebraska, and almost 90 percent in the Virgin Islands.

With returns counted from nearly two-thirds of the Louisiana precincts, he was gaining 53 percent of the vote, to 39 percent for the former first lady.

As in his earlier Southern triumphs in Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina, Obama, a black man, rode a wave of African-American support to victory in Louisiana.

Citizenship on hold for many immigrants

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush is asking Congress to spend money to help businesses root out illegal workers but he did not request additional funds to help legal immigrants become American citizens more quickly.

In his budget proposal issued this week, Bush asked for $100 million to expand E-Verify, the system employers use to check whether they are hiring documented workers. He didn't ask Congress to allocate money to chip away at millions of citizenship and other immigration applications that flooded the government last summer, before an increase in the agency's filing fees.

Instead, Citizenship and Immigration Services will rely on $468 million in fees to pay for reducing the backlog by 2010. Those funds are a portion of the total fees that came in with the applications this summer.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said the summer's fee increases will give the agency the money it needs to get back on track.

"People always argue well you ought to fund this, you ought to fund that. That's great, but the pie is only as big as it is and no one ever comes up with this slice they want to give back in return for this," Chertoff said.

A total 7.7 million applications for various immigration benefits poured into Citizenship and Immigration Services in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 2007. That's 1.4 million more than the previous fiscal year.

"The backlogs are pretty much back where they were when they started and the agency is back to doing what it used to do, which is robbing Peter to pay Paul. Right now they are taking resources from permanent residence to do citizenship," said Crystal Williams, associate director for programs at the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

The immigration agency increased fees in July largely to raise about $1.5 billion to pay for modernizing computer equipment, hiring and training more workers, improving field offices and other spending.

Becoming a citizen now costs $595, up from $330. The price to get a green card is $1,010, up from $395. Applicants for both pay another $80 each for digital fingerprinting, a $10 increase.

Atlantis delivers new space lab

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Space shuttle Atlantis and its astronauts delivered a sparkling new lab to the international space station Saturday, but had to delay installing it by a day because of a crew member's medical problem.

One of the two spacewalking astronauts who was to help install the $2 billion European science lab, Columbus, was pulled from the job because of a non-life-threatening condition. The installation won't take place now until Monday.

NASA officials would not say why German astronaut Hans Schlegel was being replaced, but Atlantis' commander, Stephen Frick, requested a private medical conference with flight surgeons shortly after reaching the space station.

"I will just say it's not going to impact any of the objectives of this mission," said John Shannon, chairman of the mission management team. "It will cause us to rearrange a few activities."

Shannon refused to elaborate, citing medical privacy, but noted that it was not a life-threatening condition. When asked by another reporter if it was contagious, he said: "You guys can fish all day, but I won't bite."

Schlegel, 56, a two-time space flier, did not appear to be sick when he floated inside the space station and took part in a safety briefing, but he seemed quiet. He was seen on camera for only several minutes.

Schlegel was supposed to venture outside with American Rex Walheim on the first two of three planned spacewalks. His status on the second spacewalk, on Wednesday, was still uncertain.

The Columbus lab should have been unloaded from Atlantis and attached to the space station on Sunday, with two spacewalkers outside to help. Mission Control informed the astronauts about the delay just a few hours after the shuttle and the station joined up.

NASA said Schlegel's shuttle crewmate, American Stanley Love, would take his place. Love trained for the work as a backup, just in case, and already was assigned to the mission's third spacewalk, along with Walheim.

It was a rare and unsettling change in plans for NASA, which typically prepares for every aspect of a shuttle mission—particularly spacewalks—for months and even years.

Crews find 5th body at Ga. refinery

PORT WENTWORTH, Ga. (AP)—As crews pulled another body from the charred remnants of a sugary refinery on Saturday, families and co-workers waited anxiously for identities of the five dead and the fate of the three men still missing.

They also desperately hoped for any sign of recovery among the worst injured in the explosion and fire at the refinery, which left 20 workers hospitalized with severe burns, 17 of them in medically induced comas.

"It's just hours of waiting right now," said Hallie Capers, whose two nephews suffered horrific burns and are in critical condition at a burn center in Augusta, 130 miles up the Savannah River.

"We pray and hope that when we do get some news, it'll be good news," he said.

Good news was scarce as firefighters pulled the fifth body from the Imperial Sugar refinery, outside Savannah.

Fire Chief Greg Long said the body was found near the plant's three 80-foot storage silos, one of which ignited like a bomb during the night shift Thursday.

The blast and fire left much of the massive plant dangerously unstable, and crews had to shore up the sagging upper floors in a four-story building Saturday before resuming searching for the missing men.

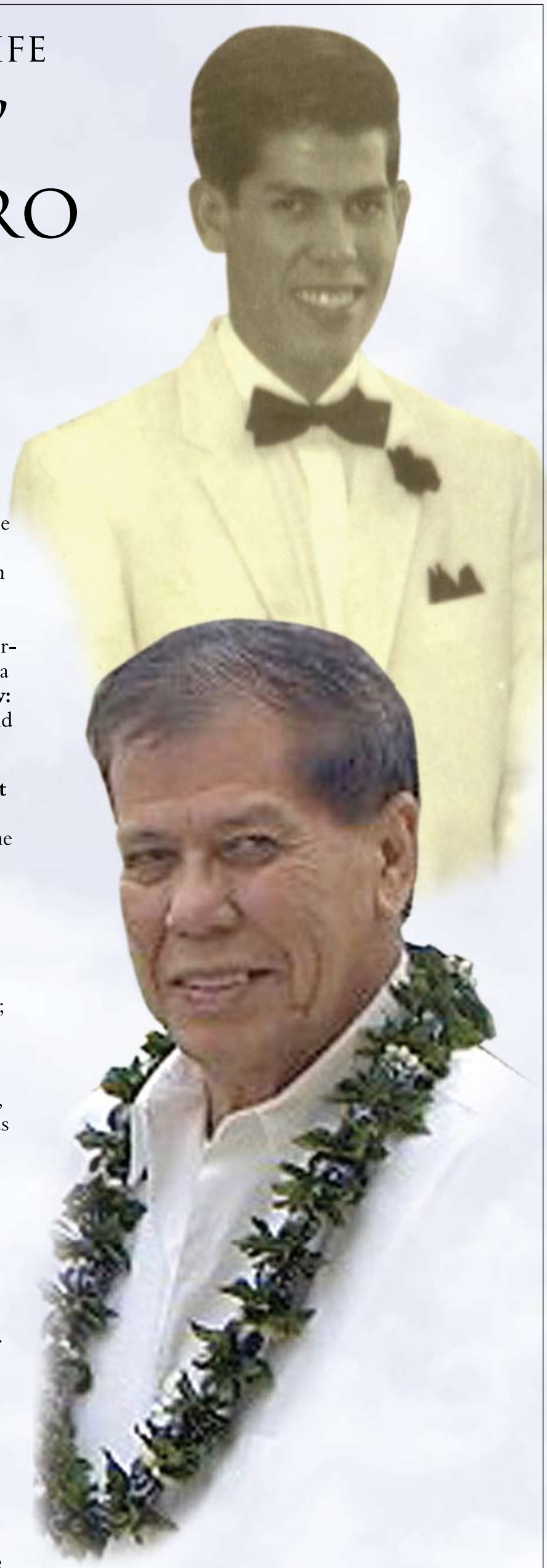
Firefighters had all but extinguished the fire that had raged in the refinery since the explosion.

Officials clung to slim hope that the missing men could be found alive, Long said.

In Celebration of His New Life

John "Manuel" Deleon Guerrero Pangelinan

fondly known as "Ne and JP"



October 26, 1937 – February 5, 2008
of Saipan (formerly of Guam) was called
to his eternal rest on Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at the age of 70

In his passing, he now joins:
Wife: Dolores Perez Pangelinan **Children:** Joseph Pangelinan; Doris Marie Pangelinan; Joseph Pangelinan; Joseph Pangelinan; John Pangelinan; **Grandchild:** Dulcenea Maria Pangelinan; **Parents:** Angelina Diaz Deleon Guerrero & Joaquin Sablan Pangelinan; Magdalena Terlaje Pangelinan; **Parents-in-law:** Salvador Sr. & Hattie Kaihemakawalu Mamae Perez; **Sister:** Margaret Pangelinan Flores Kintol; **Brothers:** Gonzalo Deleon Guerrero Pangelinan; Alejo Aldan & Jesus Aldan; **Brothers-in-law:** Edward Ada Flores, Herman Kintol, Gilbert Ada & Dr. Jose Villagomez. **Sisters- in-law:** Ramona Perez & Evangeline Hartley; **Brothers-in-law & Spouse:** Reginald Charles Perez; Salvador Jr. & Concepcion San Nicolas Perez.

He will be forever missed but fond memories and his peaceful spirit will be lovingly treasured and remain in the hearts of his:
Children and Grandchildren: Donna Angelina Pangelinan; Lisa Christine Pangelinan (Jared); John J. & Gina Fejarang-Pangelinan (Audora, Joaquin, Angelina and Audreana); Jay Mitchell & Jennifer Contreras-Pangelinan (Alexandra, Ryan and Aubree); Jennifer Lynn Pangelinan ; Christie Leigh Sablan **Reared Son:** Edward Pangelinan Flores.

Brothers/Sisters and Spouses: Isabel & Segundo Duenas; Selina Stein; Rita Villagomez; Sophia & Pedro Tenorio; Herman & Christie Pangelinan; Gordon (Gonzalo) & Alice Pangelinan; Evelyn & Gregorio Calvo; Faustina Ada; Felix Torres; Geri Aldan.

Lifelong Family Friends: Siu Lin Tan & Pek Kim Lam Tan; Henry Tan, Willie Tan, Lily Chou, Raymond Tan, Jerry Tan, Sunny Tan and numerous other nephews and nieces, cousins and close friends.

Mass of Intentions is offered daily at 6:00 AM at Mt. Carmel Cathedral with the Holy Rosary prayed at 6:30 PM at the Residence of Rita P. Villagomez – As Lito, Saipan.

On Tuesday, February 12, 2008, his remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 8:00 AM. Visitation will start at 10:00 AM. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM.

On Wednesday, February 13, 2008, his remains will be escorted to Saipan International Airport at 1:00 PM for departure to California for interment services. Upon his arrival in California, his remains will be escorted to Holy Cross Mortuary in Culver City, CA.

Viewing and last respects will be held on Friday, February 15, 2008 at Holy Cross Mortuary in Culver City, CA.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, February 16, 2008 at American Martyrs Catholic Church in Manhattan Beach, CA at 10:00 AM.
Burial will follow at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Culver City, CA.

Asia

Bomb kills 25 at Pakistan election rally

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide bomber blasted a political gathering Saturday in northwestern Pakistan, killing at least 25 people, wounding dozens and stoking fears about security surrounding this month's parliamentary election.

In the south, an estimated 100,000 supporters of Benazir Bhutto turned out for her party's first major election rally since her assassination on Dec. 27. Bhutto's widowed husband told the crowd he had a responsibility to save the nation from President Pervez Musharraf's rule.

Also Saturday, riot police in the capital of Islamabad fired water cannons and tear gas against hundreds of lawyers protesting the detention of the deposed chief justice.

The violence underscored the deep tensions in Pakistan as the nation heads toward the Feb. 18 elections, which are meant to restore democracy after eight years of military rule. But campaigning has been overshadowed by Bhutto's killing, which U.S. and Pakistani officials blame on Islamic militants.

The blast occurred inside a hall where about 200 people had assembled for a political rally in the town of Charsadda in turbulent North West Frontier province, where Islamic extremists have been battling government forces.

The rally was organized by the Awami National Party—a secular organization which competes against Islamist parties for support among the ethnic Pashtun community.

Myanmar junta sets 2010 for elections

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's military government, a target of sharp international criticism for failing to hand over power to a democratically elected government, announced Saturday that it will hold elections in 2010.

The junta also said a national referendum to approve a new constitution will be held in May.

"The time has now come to change from military rule to democratic civilian rule," official announcements on state radio and television said.

The country's last election was in 1990, but the military refused to hand over power when Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party won. Suu Kyi, a Nobel peace prize winner, has been in prison or under house arrest for more than 12 of the past 18 years.

It was the first time the government has set dates for stages of its so-called road map to democracy.

But the announcement was unlikely to mollify critics who say that the proposed constitution will likely be unfair and undemocratic.

Suu Kyi's party reacted cautiously, noting the lack of detail on how the referendum would be carried out.

"The announcement is vague, incomplete and strange," said spokesman Nyan Win.

RP president calls for 'credible' probe into civilian deaths during military raid

JOLO, Philippines (AP)—President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo called for a thorough military investigation into the killings of seven civilians and an off-duty soldier during an operation against al-Qaida-linked militants in the southern Philippines, the defense minister said Saturday.

The operation before dawn Monday in the island village of Ipil in Sulu province also left two soldiers and three Abu Sayyaf militants dead, the military said.

"The instruction of the president is to have a credible investigation," said Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro.

The military offered to give Teodoro their account of the incident, but he said he wanted to wait for the results of the full investigation.

The military, the police, the provincial government and the government's commission on human rights are conducting separate investigations into the incident.

One witness, Rawina Wahid, whose husband was killed in the raid, said she was tied up by soldiers who put her and her husband's body into a naval boat with several U.S. soldiers on board. She said the Filipino soldiers blindfolded her after she saw the Americans.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Kidney ring suspect sent to India

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—The alleged leader of a syndicate accused of illegally removing hundreds of kidneys, sometimes from poor laborers held at gunpoint, was deported from Nepal to India on Saturday, officials said. Nepalese authorities handed over Amit Kumar to Indian officials who had been seeking his extradition since he was arrested Thursday at a jungle resort in neighboring Nepal, said Upendra Aryal, a top police officer in Nepal's capital city of Katmandu. Authorities had been searching for Kumar since last month when he fled after police said they broke up the kidney transplant racket they claimed he ran from an upscale New Delhi suburb. Police were also investigating whether Kumar was involved in illegal kidney transplants in Nepal, Aryal said. Indian authorities declined to comment on the case Saturday.

Russian bomber violates Japan airspace

TOKYO (AP)—A Russian air force bomber briefly violated Japanese airspace Saturday over an uninhabited island south of Tokyo, prompting Japan to scramble 22 fighter jets and issue a protest with Moscow, the Foreign Ministry said. The Russian air force denied the intrusion. The Russian Tupolev 95 left Japanese airspace after three minutes following warnings by Japanese air force jets over Sofugan in the Izu island chain, 400 miles south of Tokyo, said Foreign Ministry official Kotaro Otsuki. The ministry immediately lodged a protest with the Russian Embassy in Tokyo and demanded an explanation, Otsuki said. A switchboard operator at the embassy said no one there was immediately available for comment. ITAR-Tass news agency quoted the head of the Russian Air Force information service, Alexander Drobyshevsky, as denying the intrusion, saying the flyby was part of a mission over neutral waters.

Chinese editor released from prison

BEIJING (AP)—The editor of a Chinese newspaper known for its aggressive reporting has been released early from prison after serving four years on corruption charges, a colleague at his newspaper and a journalists' group said Saturday. Yu Huafeng left a prison in the southern city of Panyu on Friday and immediately returned to his nearby home, according to a receptionist at the Southern Metropolitan Daily and Paris-based Reporters Without Borders. The operator refused to give her name and said she had no details. Yu was the third prominent journalist detained in China to gain release this month, following Li Changqing, the former editor of Fuzhou Daily, and Ching Cheong, a Hong Kong-based correspondent for Singapore's The Straits Times newspaper. Reporters Without Borders said the releases showed Beijing was responding to pressure and urged campaigners to step-up efforts ahead of the Beijing Summer Olympic Games in August.

World

Kenya violence leaves uncertain future

TIGONI, Kenya (AP)—More than a century ago, European colonists carved up Africa, jamming together people who spoke different languages, danced to different music and worshipped different gods within the same borders.

Kenya was one of the few new nations that flourished. But now, the once stable and prosperous country seems as flawed and fragile a creation as many other African states. Weeks of bloodshed have seen ethnic gangs exact revenge on rivals and people divide themselves along tribal lines.

The spark was an election which the opposition says the president stole, and which foreign and domestic observers agree was deeply flawed. Former U.N. chief Kofi Annan says he hopes to have mediated a settlement by early this week. But even if the politicians agree, the wounds will not heal easily.

Appeals to tribe have long trumped ideology in Kenyan politics, and ethnic strife has been common around election time since the country made its first democratic strides in the 1990s.

But no previous violence has been so sustained or ferocious. More than 1,000 people have been killed and 300,000 forced from their home since the Dec. 27 vote. The economy has been gutted, and many wonder whether the world's view of the Kenya of bountiful game parks, shimmering beaches, thriving capital and busy port was just an illusion.

AP

The shadow of a vendor holding necklaces is seen at a Maasai market in Nairobi, Kenya, Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008.

US commanders welcome Fallujah revival

FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP)—Women shrouded in black shop for gold jewelry and fabric. Young boys tote trays of tea. The smell of tangerines wafts through the air. This is Fallujah 2008—a former insurgent stronghold that U.S. commanders now hold up as an example for the rest of Iraq.

But a simmering provincial power struggle is threatening to raise new tensions among the fractured Sunni tribal chiefs and politicians of Anbar that some fear could distract them from the fight against al-Qaida in Iraq.

Anbar province was the stronghold of the insurgency that mobilized in the months after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion routed Saddam Hussein. Some of the bloodiest fighting of the war took place in Fallujah, the heart of the anti-American resistance until American troops stormed the city in November 2004.

The Euphrates River city, 40 miles west of Baghdad, remained a virtual prison and rebuilding was slow to take hold after the U.S. Marines clamped down on the perimeter and continued to face fierce fighting with insurgents.

That changed last year when Sunni tribal leaders joined forces with the Americans to deprive al-Qaida of sanctuaries and force the militants to flee or go into hiding.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israeli boy, brother injured by rockets

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel threatened retaliation Saturday after two brothers, ages 8 and 19, were seriously wounded when a rocket from Gaza slammed into the center of the Israeli border town of Sderot. The ongoing rocket fire from the Gaza Strip and Israeli military attacks could hamper the Bush administration's efforts to prod Israel and the Palestinians toward a final peace agreement by the end of the year. "Israel will take resolute and decisive measures to protect our citizens," government spokesman David Baker said. "We will not allow Israeli families to be victimized by Palestinian rockets in the heart of their own cities." The rocket was one of 11 fired toward southern Israel on Saturday, police said. It landed yards away from a road where a family was running to seek shelter as warning sirens rang out to announce the attack, Israeli media reported.

Fire strikes London's Camden market

LONDON (AP)—A major fire broke out late Saturday at London's famous Camden market, ripping through one of the city's top tourist draws and a nearby celebrity hangout, fire officials and witnesses said. Flames from the blaze sent bright red cinders and huge plumes of smoke into the night sky. Fire officials said the blaze was brought under control more than three hours after it was reported. There were no casualties reported. The fire spread quickly across the market and surrounding buildings, consuming part of the Hawley Arms, a famous pub that has attracted celebrities including singer Amy Winehouse, rocker Peter Doherty and model Kate Moss. Associated Press Television News video showed firefighters shooting water on the upper stories of the building housing the pub, eventually controlling the flames.

Creationists seek foothold in Europe

LONDON (AP)—After the Sunday service in Westminster Chapel, where worshippers were exhorted to wage "the culture war" in the World War II spirit of Sir Winston Churchill, cabbie James McLean delivered his verdict on Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. "Evolution is a lie, and it's being taught in schools as fact, and it's leading our kids in the wrong direction," said McLean, chatting outside the chapel. "But now people like Ken Ham are tearing evolution to pieces." Ken Ham is the founder of Answers in Genesis, a Kentucky-based organization that is part of an ambitious effort to bring creationist theory to Britain and the rest of Europe. McLean is one of a growing number of evangelicals embracing that message—that the true history of the Earth is told in the Bible, not Darwin's "The Origin of Species." Europeans have long viewed the conflict between evolutionists and creationists as primarily an American phenomenon, but it has recently jumped the Atlantic Ocean with skirmishes in Italy, Germany, Poland and, notably, Britain, where Darwin was born and where he published his 1859 classic.

Health & Fitness

Doctors use Wii games for rehab therapy

CHICAGO (AP)—Some call it "Wiihabilitation." Nintendo's Wii video game system, whose popularity already extends beyond the teen gaming set, is fast becoming a craze in rehab therapy for patients recovering from strokes, broken bones, surgery and even combat injuries.

The usual stretching and lifting exercises that help the sick or injured regain strength can be painful, repetitive and downright boring.

In fact, many patients say PT—physical therapy's nickname—really stands for "pain and torture," said James Osborn, who oversees rehabilitation services at Herrin Hospital in southern Illinois.

Using the game console's unique, motion-sensitive controller, Wii games require body movements similar to traditional therapy exercises. But patients become so engrossed mentally they're almost oblivious to the rigor, Osborn said.

"In the Wii system, because it's kind of a game format, it does create this kind of inner competitiveness. Even though you may be boxing or playing tennis against some figure on the screen, it's amazing how many of our patients want to beat their opponent," said Osborn of Southern Illinois Healthcare, which includes the hospital in Herrin. The hospital, about 100 miles southeast of St. Louis, bought a Wii system for rehab patients late last year.

"When people can refocus their attention from the tediousness of the physical task, oftentimes they do much better," Osborn said.

Nintendo Co. doesn't market Wii's potential use in physical therapy, but company representative Anka Dolecki said, "We are happy to see that people are finding added benefit in rehabilitation."

The most popular Wii games in rehab involve sports—baseball, bowling, boxing, golf and tennis. Using the same arm swings required by those sports, players wave a wireless controller that directs the actions of animated athletes on the screen.

The Hines Veterans Affairs Hospital west of Chicago recently bought a Wii system for its spinal cord injury unit.

Pfc. Matthew Turpen, 22, paralyzed from the chest down in a car accident last year while stationed in Germany, plays Wii golf and bowling from his wheelchair at Hines. The Des Moines, Iowa, native says the games help beat the monotony of rehab and seem to be doing his body good, too.

"A lot of guys don't have full finger function so it definitely helps being able to work on using your fingers more and figuring out different ways to use your hands" and arms, Turpen said.

At Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the therapy is well-suited to patients injured during combat in Iraq, who tend to be in the 19 to 25 age range—a group that's "very into" playing video games, said Lt. Col. Stephanie Daugherty, Walter Reed's chief of occupational therapy.

"They think it's for entertainment, but we know it's for therapy," she said.

It's useful in occupational therapy, which helps patients relearn daily living skills including brushing teeth, combing hair and fastening clothes, Daugherty said.

WakeMed Health has been using Wii games at its Raleigh, N.C., hospital for patients as young as 9 "all the way up to people in their 80s," said therapist Elizabeth Penny.

"They're getting improved endurance, strength, coordination. I think it's very entertaining for them," Penny said.

"It really helps the body to loosen up so it can do what it's supposed to do," said Billy Perry, 64, a retired Raleigh police officer. He received Wii therapy at WakeMed after suffering a stroke on Christmas Eve.

Perry said he'd seen his grandchildren play Wii games and was excited when a hospital therapist suggested he try it.

He said Wii tennis and boxing helped him regain strength and feeling in his left arm.

"It's enjoyable. I know I'm going to participate with my grandkids more when I go visit them," Perry said.

While there's plenty of anecdotal evidence that Wii games help in rehab, researcher Lars Oddsson wants to put the games to a real test.

Oddsson is director of the Sister Kenny Research Center at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. The center bought a Wii system last summer and is working with the University of Minnesota to design a study that will measure patients' function "before and after this 'Wiihab,' as someone called it," Oddsson said.

"You can certainly make a case that some form of endurance related to strength and flexibility and balance and cardio would be challenged when you play the Wii," but hard scientific proof is needed to prove it, Oddsson said.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

3rd NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Edward M. Ayuyu, ("Trustor"), on or about September 17, 2001 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, ("VA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on September 17, 2001 under Document No. 01-1942 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 345 R 426, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 929 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 345 R 09 DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 1984, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 84-2049, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Notice of Default on July 20, 2006. Thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2CMC §4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on **February 11, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Rota Field Office, Sonton, P.O. Box 527, Rota, MP 96951** under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $36,688.00, the total amount due under the VA loan plus Trustee's expenses.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 9th day of January, 2008.

/S/Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director, NMHC

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting for **Friday, February 15, 2008 beginning at 6:00 PM at the Plumeria Room, Saipan World Resort; Saipan, MP**.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I **PRELIMINARIES**
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II **CONSULTANT REPORTS**
- Legal Counsel Reports*
- Loan Administrator Reports
  - Transition Matters
- Investment Consultant Reports
  - Flash Reports – January 2007
- Board Consultant Reports
  - Financial Statements – January 2007

III **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
- Administrative Matters

IV **OLD BUSINESS**

V **NEW BUSINESS**

VI **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

VII **MISCELLANEOUS**

VIII **ADJOURNMENT**

* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(REANNOUNCEMENT)
JVA# 08-003

OPENING DATE: February 8, 2008 CLOSING DATE: Until Filled
Position: Chief Internal Auditor
Location: Saipan

NATURE OF WORK: The Chief Internal Auditor is responsible for performing, planning and administering comprehensive internal audits of the NMI Retirement Fund and its component organizations. Responsibility includes supervising the work of lower-level auditors, ensuring that subordinate staff receives adequate direction, guidance, and training and that work performed meets prescribed standards. The Chief Internal Auditor reports directly to the Fund Board of Trustees.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Individual must possess a bachelor's degree and graduation from an accredited college or university with major course work in accounting, finance, economics, business management, business administration, or criminal justice. Plus, he/she must have attained a professional certification. Acceptable certifications include: Certified Public Accountant (CPA), or Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), or other relevant audit-related certification. In addition, must have five years of auditing experience, with at least one year of experience in the role of lead auditor.

COMPENSATION: The compensation range for this position is between $40,000 - $50,000 per annum plus other benefits as mandated by law.

Interested individuals may pick up an application and the complete Position Description from the NMI Retirement Fund, Capitol Hill, Saipan. All application packages must be received at the Fund office, Saipan; applications will be accepted by e-mail and/or postal mail. **Incomplete application packages will not be accepted.** Packages must be marked "**JVA# 08-003 - Confidential.**" Interested applicants must submit their **application, resume, educational credentials and police clearance** addressed to the following:

Mark Aguon, Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

MEDICAL CLAIMS PROCESSING SERVICE

OPENING DATE: **FEBRUARY 11, 2008**
CLOSING DATE: **MARCH 12, 2008**

The Board of Trustees of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund ("NMIRF"), charged with administering the Group Health & Life Insurance Program ("GHLIP"), a separate and distinct trust component of the NMIRF, is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified insurance companies and firms to provide **medical claims processing service**. To receive the RFP packet, you must fax, e-mail or mail your request to:

Mark A. Aguon, Administrator
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247 CK
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
Fax: 670/664-8080
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.

Life & Style

Hollywood writers consider studio offer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood writers got their first look Saturday at details of a tentative agreement with studios that could put the strike-crippled entertainment industry back to work, an offer the union's East Coast president said he was endorsing.

A summary of the proposed deal crafted this week was posted on the Writers Guild of America's Web site hours before members attended meetings in New York and Los Angeles.

Compensation for projects delivered via digital media was the central issue in the 3-month-old walkout, which idled thousands of workers, disrupted the TV season and moviemaking and took the shine off Hollywood's awards season.

"I believe it is a good deal. I am going to be recommending this deal to our membership," Michael Winship, president of the Writers Guild of America, East, told reporters before the New York meeting at a Times Square hotel.

Winship said afterward that he was encouraged by the membership's response.

"We had a very lively discussion. I'm happy with what happened. ... At the moment, I feel strongly it (the proposed deal) has a strong chance of going through," he said.

Writers leaving the two-hour-plus New York meeting characterized the reaction as generally positive and said there was cautious optimism that the end of the strike—the guild's first in 20 years—could be near.

"There's a general feeling of tremendous success. I was delighted," said TV writer John Simmons, who estimated that about 500 writers were on hand. "We agreed that this looks pretty good. ... It bodes well for the future."

AP

Filmmaker Michael Moore speaks to the media prior to a Writers Guild of America East membership meeting to discuss the latest contract proposal Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008 in new York.

He added that there are "always some people who will dissent" and that the complex deal required further scrutiny.

Carmen Culver, a film and TV writer, lauded the guild "for hanging tough."

"It's a great day for the labor movement. We have suffered a lot of privation in order to achieve what we've achieved," Culver said.

Michael Moore, the Oscar-winning documentary filmmaker ("Bowling for Columbine") and a nominee this year for his health-care film "Sicko," attended the New York meeting.

"It's an historic moment for labor in this country," Moore told The Associated Press.

Hundreds of writers filed into the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles to hear from union leaders about the proposed deal. Some were cautiously optimistic that they could begin work by next week.

"I'm hopeful. We've been jerked around so much by the studios," film writer Brian Suskind said. "I don't think we're feeling vindictive, but we're angry about how we've been treated."

If guild members on both coasts react favorably to the proposed deal, the guild's board could vote Sunday to lift the strike order and the industry could be up and running Monday. This month's Oscars ceremony, which has been under the cloud of a union and actors boycott, also would be a winner.

Sunday's Grammy Awards ceremony has a picket-free pass from the union.

Winship cautioned that it's not a "done deal" until the contract is ratified by members. He also said that several steps must be taken before the West guild's board and East guild's council decide to lift the strike order.

"It conceivably could be Monday, but there are several different alternative ways that the board and council could determine how this should be dealt with," Winship said.

An outline of the three-year deal was reached in recent talks between media executives and the guild, with lawyers then drafting the contract language that was concluded Friday.

According to the guild's summary, the deal provides union jurisdiction over projects created for the Internet based on certain guidelines, sets compensation for streamed, ad-supported programs and increases residuals for downloaded movies and TV programs.

The writers deal is similar to one reached last month by the Directors Guild of America, including a provision that compensation for ad-supported streaming doesn't kick in until after a window of between 17 to 24 days deemed "promotional" by the studios.

Writers would get a maximum $1,200 flat fee for streamed programs in the deal's first two years and then get a percentage of a distributor's gross in year three—the last point an improvement on the directors deal, which remains at the flat payment rate.

"Much has been achieved, and while this agreement is neither perfect nor perhaps all that we deserve for the countless hours of hard work and sacrifice, our strike has been a success," guild leaders Winship and Patric Verrone, head of the Writers Guild of America, West, said in an e-mailed message to members.

Together, the guilds represent 12,000 writers, with about 10,000 of those involved in the strike that began Nov. 5 and has cost the Los Angeles area economy alone an estimated $1 billion or more. Studios are represented by Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers.

One observer said the guild gained ground in the deal but not as much as it wanted.

"It's a mixed deal but far better than the writers would have been able to get three months ago. The strike was a qualified success," said Jonathan Handel, an entertainment attorney with the Troy-Gould firm and a former associate counsel for the writers guild.

The walkout "paved the way for the directors to get a better deal than they would otherwise have gotten. That in turn became the foundation for further improvements the writers achieved," Handel said.

Ledger gets final send-off in Perth

PERTH, Australia (AP)—Heath Ledger's family, his former fiance Michelle Williams and Australia's entertainment elite bade him farewell at a private memorial service Saturday in his hometown.

Ledger's family returned to Perth earlier this week to bury the actor, who died in his Manhattan apartment at age 28 from a prescription drug overdose on Jan. 22. The family attended a memorial service in Los Angeles last weekend.

Several hundred people gathered at a Perth local girls' school, Penrhos College, for a memorial that mixed personal tributes, modern rock and traditional Aboriginal music.

Williams, who became romantically involved with Ledger while filming the gay romance "Brokeback Mountain," arrived at the service with Ledger's parents in a six-car motorcade. Wearing black sunglasses and a white dress with black trim, she clutched the arm of Ledger's older sister Kate.

The 75-minute service kicked off with the performance of a didgeridoo, a traditional Aboriginal wind instrument, performer Levi Islam said. Rock songs were also played—Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changin," the Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun," "Wish You Were Here" by Pink Floyd and Neil Young's "Old Man," according to a program of the service.

Organizers also showed footage from Ledger's films and of 2-year-old Matilda—his daughter with Williams.

The event also drew members of the Australian entertainment industry, where Ledger got his start. Barbara Scott, a state lawmaker who attended the service, said many attendees were emotional.

Fellow Australian-turned-Hollywood star Cate Blanchett, who starred with Ledger in the Bob Dylan biopic, "I'm Not There," recalled their time spent together in New York and Los Angeles, Scott said.

Other speakers included his parents, sister and Neil Armfield, who directed Ledger in his last Australian film, "Candy," released in 2006.

Ledger's father Kim said the service would be followed by a private funeral in Perth. He appealed for privacy and did not disclose the time or location.

"It's a pretty sad time. We're finding it difficult to cope by ourselves, let alone cope with everybody around the world," he said.

"Having said that, we do really appreciate the outpouring and the emotional support from all over the globe," he added.

Saturday's events ended with a wake at a colonial-style waterfront restaurant at scenic Cottesloe Beach that overlooks the Indian Ocean, one of the actor's favorite spots in this small and remote city on the verge of the Outback in Australia's southwest.

Nine Network national television showed Williams and other mourners taking a dip in the waters, some still dressed, including the actress. The group later stood on the sand cheering and applauding as they watched the sun set into the ocean.

AP

Late Hollywood actor Heath Ledger's father Kim Ledger, second left, with his new wife Ines Ledger, and Heath's mother Sally Ledger-Bell, second right, with her new husband Roger Bell, arrive at a memorial service for Heath in Perth, Australia, Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008.

Ledger was one of the biggest stars Perth has produced. Locals mourned his early death and scoffed at speculation of illegal drug use before the New York City medical examiner said Wednesday Ledger died from the effects of taking six types of painkillers and sedatives.

Scott called Ledger a "wonderful west Australian, an outstanding guy with great talent."

Aretha tribute launches Grammy weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—John Legend, Lil Mama, Corinne Bailey Rae and gospel singer Shirley Caesar paid their "Respect" to Aretha Franklin in a musical tribute to the Queen of Soul.

They joined Fantasia, BeBe and CeCe Winans, Patti Austin, Herbie Hancock and Roy Hargrove in launching Grammy weekend by honoring the 65-year-old R&B diva as MusiCares Person of the Year.

Surrounded by music industry titans Clive Davis, Quincy Jones and Berry Gordy, Franklin listened Friday night to interpretations of some of the biggest hits of her lengthy career.

Austin scatted on "I Say a Little Prayer," turning it into an extended jam with a piano solo by Hancock and Hargrove on trumpet, while Franklin nodded her head in time to the music. When the crowd was slow to sing and clap along, Austin joked: "We got too many white people in here."

Lil Mama did a rap version of Franklin's feminist anthem "Respect." British singer Rae accompanied herself on guitar to "Angel," a 1973 hit written by Franklin's sister Carolyn. Fantasia, sporting a startling patch of white in her black hair, sang "Do Right Woman, Do Right Man," and Ledisi performed "Rock Steady."

AP

Comedian Bill Cosby performs at the MusiCares tribute to Aretha Franklin as they honor her as their person of the year, Friday night, Feb. 8, 2008, in Los Angeles.

Carmen Carter teamed with saxophonist Dave Koz for "Think," the song Franklin performed in "The Blues Brothers" movie. Dan Aykroyd and Jim Belushi danced along dressed as the movie's title characters.

Legend played piano and sang "Day Dreaming" before Caesar turned the hall into a revival meeting. Backed by a choir, she growled and prowled the stage during a gospel medley that earned a standing ovation.

Mediation fails between Burton, ex

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mediation talks collapsed between Tim Burton and his ex-girlfriend, who claims she was cheated out of her rights to assets that the director promised her during their nearly decade-long relationship, attorneys said.

The legal fight is scheduled to play out before Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Harold I. Cherness on Aug. 12.

Lisa Marie, a former Calvin Klein model, met Burton at a club in 1991 and went on to star in several of his movies while the couple lived together. Burton broke up with her nearly 10 years later.

In December 2006, Marie sued Burton, saying he promised her that they would "combine their efforts and earnings and would share equally any and all" accumulated property. The lawsuit also claimed that Burton said he would financially support her for the rest of her life.

After the split, Marie said she consulted with an attorney who told her she would have little chance of prevailing in a palimony suit, the lawsuit said. Marie claims the lawyer colluded with Burton and persuaded her to enter into contracts with the director that deprived her of her rights.

According to court papers filed by Burton's lawyer, the director gave Marie $5 million to sign a contract releasing him from any further claims to his assets. He maintained that if she wanted to rescind the contract, she was obligated to return the money.

Burton countersued Marie in September seeking a court declaration that his ex-girlfriend was bound by prior agreements.

The director cast Marie in several of his films, including "Ed Wood," "Mars Attacks!" and "Planet of the Apes." It was while filming the "Planet of the Apes" remake in 2001 that Burton met Helena Bonham Carter.

Burton and Carter eventually became a couple. The actress gave birth in December to her second child with the 49-year-old director.

AP

US film director Tim Burton arrives with U.S. actress Lisa Marie at the Festival Palace in Cannes on Sunday May 11, 1997.

'Ratatouille' wins 10 Annie Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A gourmet rat was the big cheese Friday, winning 10 Annie Awards, which recognize achievements in feature film and television animation.

Disney and Pixar's rodent tale "Ratatouille" won the award for best feature production, beating out DreamWorks' insect story "Bee Movie," Sony Pictures' penguin-powered "Surf's Up," Sony Pictures Classics' coming-of-age chronicle "Persepolis" and 20th Century Fox's "The Simpsons Movie."

"Ratatouille" went into the ceremony at UCLA's Royce Hall with a leading 13 nominations.

Among it awards were best writing and directing for Brad Bird, best voice acting for Ian Holm, best character animation, music, storyboarding, production design and best animated video game.

Bird and two writing partners are also up for an Oscar for best original screenplay.

"Ratatouille" is the tale of a rat voiced by Patton Oswalt that tries to rise above the trash-nibbling ways of his family and friends.

The Annie Awards are presented by The International Animated Film Society. The best-picture winner has gone on to win the Academy Award for animated feature every year but one since the Oscars added the category in 2001. Last year's Annie winner, the Disney-Pixar auto-racing comedy "Cars," lost at the Oscars to the penguin musical "Happy Feet."

Other Annie Awards presented Friday included:

■ Animated Effects: Deborah Carlson, "Surf's Up."

■ Animated television production: "Creature Comforts America," Aardman Animation.

■ Animated television production for children: "El Tigre," Nickelodeon.

■ Directing in an animated TV production: Seth Green, "Robot Chicken Star Wars," ShadowMachine.

'Juno,' 'No Country' honored by WGA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Juno" and "No Country for Old Men" won top honors Saturday at the Writers Guild of America Awards.

The guild announced the winners after canceling its awards ceremony set for Saturday night because its members were on strike. Writers on both coasts were meeting to review a tentative agreement that could end a walkout that began Nov. 5.

Diablo Cody won the original screenplay prize for "Juno," a tale of a wisecracking teen who gets pregnant and decides to give her baby up for adoption.

Brothers Ethan and Joel Coen received the adapted screenplay award for "No Country for Old Men," which features a relentless hit man played by Javier Bardem searching for Josh Brolin, who makes off with a fortune left behind at a drug deal gone awry.

Cody and the Coen brothers are nominated in the same categories for the Academy Awards later this month. Both films also are competing for the best-picture prize.

Therapist loses effectiveness when patient becomes a friend

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I have a close friend, "Ethel," about whom I'm very worried. She sees a therapist, "Amy," once a week for depression and suicidal thoughts, and while I think it's a wonderful idea, I'm concerned because she has become "friends" with her therapist.

This has gone as far as gift-giving, attending the therapist's wedding, etc. I always thought it was a breach of professional boundaries for a therapist to become friends with his or her patient.

I am the one who gets the 4 a.m. phone calls when Ethel is feeling like the world is ending for her. She says my son and I are the only reason she doesn't do something to herself. When I ask Ethel why she doesn't discuss this with Amy, or call her at 4 a.m., Ethel says she doesn't want to burden her with her problems. She also refers to her appointments as "visiting" with Amy and says that they have lovely talks about Amy's family, etc.

I'm a single mother with a full-time job, taking classes at the university for my MBA. I try to make as much time as I can for Ethel, but I'm worn out and worried about those 4 a.m. phone calls. After seeing this therapist for five years, wouldn't you think Ethel would at least be a little bit better? If anything, I think she's worse.

I have suggested that Ethel find another therapist, but all she says is that Amy is her friend. What else can I do?

SARA IN SALEM, ORE.

DEAR SARA: It's apparent that Amy is no longer acting in the role of therapist. And because she has become a friend, Ethel doesn't want to impose upon her with her problems.

The next time Ethel calls you at 4 a.m., tell her that she is calling the wrong person. The things she is telling you are the very things that her therapist needs to know about in order to help her. If Ethel refuses, then tell her that what she needs is a therapist with a fresh approach. If Amy is truly her friend, Amy will understand that and give her a referral while maintaining their personal relationship.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 4-year-old grandson, "Teddy," is the apple of my eye.

I recently learned that my son-in-law has been taking Teddy hunting for deer and sees no harm in it. At his age, my grandson should be at a petting zoo admiring God's creatures instead of viewing the killing of them.

I have a policy of not interfering with my children in their marriages or how they raise their children. However, if needed, I am always available for advice if asked. Although I have shared my opinion that Teddy is too young, it has fallen on deaf ears.

At age 4, my grandson is too immature to understand the killing. I don't believe that this exposure is good for his psychological development at his tender age. How do I approach my son-in-law about this, and at what age do you think it is appropriate to allow the boy to go hunting?

CONCERNED GRANDPA IN GREENVILLE, S.C.

DEAR GRANDPA: It would be interesting to know how your daughter feels about her son going hunting with his dad. While I am not a fan of killing for sport, many people are avid hunters who consume the birds and animals they shoot.

While going on those expeditions at age 4 seems quite young, if your grandson isn't traumatized by the sight of the blood-and-gutting and enjoys the "bonding sessions" with his dad, and his mother has no objection, then I guess he'd old enough to go along—providing he doesn't get in the way and endanger himself.

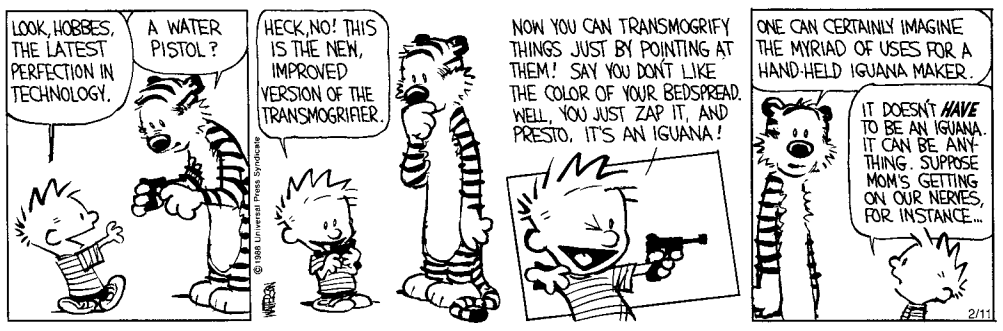
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LOOK, HOBBES, THE LATEST PERFECTION IN TECHNOLOGY.
A WATER PISTOL?
HECK, NO! THIS IS THE NEW, IMPROVED VERSION OF THE TRANSMOGRIFIER.
© 1988 Universal Press Syndicate
NOW YOU CAN TRANSMOGRIFY THINGS JUST BY POINTING AT THEM! SAY YOU DON'T LIKE THE COLOR OF YOUR BEDSPREAD. WELL, YOU JUST ZAP IT, AND PRESTO, IT'S AN IGUANA!
ONE CAN CERTAINLY IMAGINE THE MYRIAD OF USES FOR A HAND-HELD IGUANA MAKER.
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE AN IGUANA. IT CAN BE ANYTHING. SUPPOSE MOM'S GETTING ON OUR NERVES, FOR INSTANCE...
2/11

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY, LIZ?
JIM DAVIS 2-11
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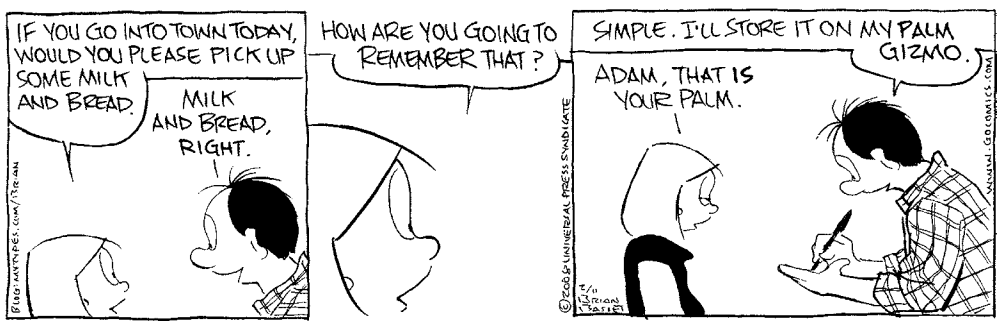
Text: GARFIELD to 25642 US ONLY
REALLY?
SHE'D LIKE ME
SEE, THIS IS HOW THOSE BIG NASTY HAIRBALLS START
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


IF YOU GO INTO TOWN TODAY, WOULD YOU PLEASE PICK UP SOME MILK AND BREAD.
MILK AND BREAD, RIGHT.
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO REMEMBER THAT?
SIMPLE. I'LL STORE IT ON MY PALM GIZMO.
ADAM, THAT IS YOUR PALM.
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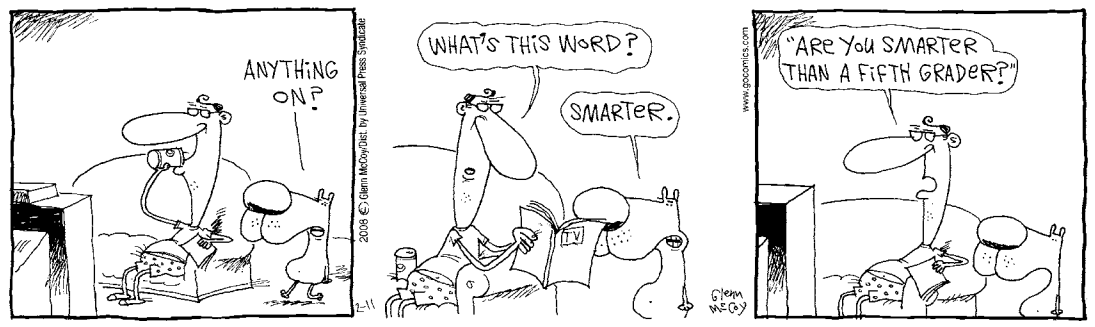
WWW.ADAMATHOME.COM

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

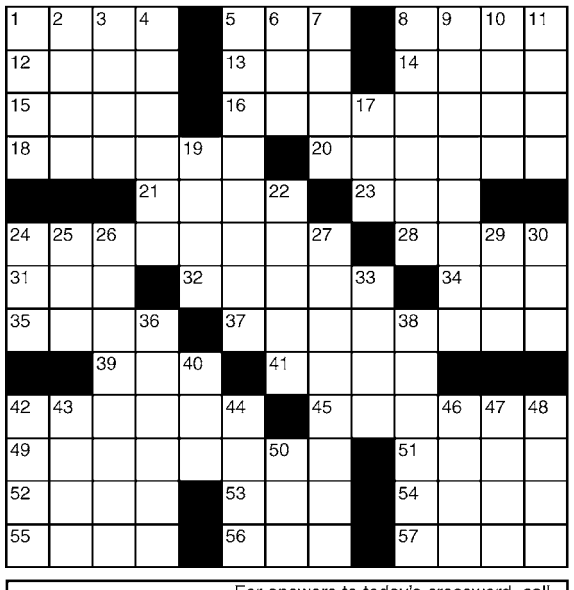
ACROSS
1 Winged
5 Solemn promise
8 Black, in poetry
12 Laundry
13 Bachelor's last words
14 Top-notch
15 Stead
16 Mexican miss
18 Seafood entree
20 Run like a horse
21 Cigar remnant
23 Craze
24 Pair from each state
28 Staff
31 Neighbor of Arg.
32 Deuces' toppers
34 Method
35 Cripple
37 Courtroom punishment
39 Sermon subject
41 Mast attachment
42 Rhododendron's cousin
45 Rather have
49 Bon voyage parties, e.g.
51 "Long live ...!"
52 Walk the floor
53 Sturgeon product
54 Divisible by two
55 Passel
56 Chances, for short
57 Dweeb

DOWN
1 Puncturing tools
2 Secular
3 On the briny
4 Ballroom dance (Var.)
5 Guests
6 Praiseful poem
7 "To — Foo, ..."
8 Winter cap part
9 Ultimately reduce (to)
10 Aware of
11 Tide type
17 Lummox
19 Shot on the green
22 Kilmer classic
24 Total
25 Historic time
26 Pest
27 Nerve-impulse links
29 Fond du —, Wisconsin
30 Storm center
33 Use a teaspoon
36 Fungal discoloration
38 Football team
40 Ultramodernist
42 Venomous vipers
43 Fervor
44 Frizzy hairstyle
46 Basketball team
47 Always
48 McNally partner
50 Dandy

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	S	T	A	B	S	■	S	W	I	V	E	L
A	C	I	D	I	C	■	O	R	N	A	T	E
W	A	P	I	T	I	■	D	U	N	C	A	N
E	R	S	E	■	S	C	A	N	■	A	S	S
■	■	■	U	S	S	R	■	G	A	T	■	■
A	B	A	■	L	O	A	D	■	P	I	E	S
T	O	B	E	O	R	N	O	T	T	O	B	E
E	A	S	Y	■	S	I	G	H	■	N	B	C
■	■	■	T	E	T	■	A	S	E	A	■	■
A	P	R	■	H	A	L	L	■	B	L	U	E
C	O	U	S	I	N	■	E	M	B	A	N	K
R	E	S	O	R	T	■	D	O	O	Z	I	E
E	M	E	N	D	S	■	S	A	T	E	S	■

Saturday's answer 2-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelly Rowland, 27; Mike Shinoda, 31; Jennifer Aniston, 39; Sheryl Crow, 46

Happy Birthday: This will be a great year if you put your imagination to work and follow your dreams. You will have the stamina, staying power and determination to see whatever you pursue through to the end. As long as you are careful in love and don't overreact to situations, the year ahead looks bright. Your numbers are 6, 11, 17, 27, 43, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Emotional as you might be today, you are better off not making rash statements or taking a risk where your work or income are concerned. Concentrate on formulating what you want to do. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't let your emotions push you into something that may be beyond you today. Do what feels right, not what you think will impress others. Small scale doesn't mean that you can't grow into something big. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Whether you change jobs, pick up part time work or send out resumes, it will help you challenge yourself to strive for more. You will be able to convince others to support you or give you a chance. Opportunity is everywhere. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Size down, slow down and focus on what's important. Emotions will skyrocket if you take on too much. Stay in control and an arm's length away from anyone trying to push you the wrong way. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You're the boss, so take charge, set your standards and goals and put your ideas into play. Use your creative imagination and don't be afraid to delegate what you want done. Generosity will play a role. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Love, social activity and a little networking will serve you well. You can entice the people you play with to take a closer look at you and, if you are single, attract someone who will want to get to know you personally as well as professionally. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A sophisticated look combined with an intelligent approach to the things you want to do and you will have enough support to actually accomplish your goals. Share your ideas and socialize with other creative people. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let your emotions get involved in what you need to accomplish today or you will fall short of your expectations. Someone you are close to may throw a wrench into the mix, leading you in directions you should probably avoid. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You've got everyone exactly where you want them to be so make your move and don't look back. You can expect things to get better at home if you are honest with yourself and the people you live with. Don't overreact or overspend. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Someone may take you by surprise, causing you to waffle and make a costly mistake today. Keep your guard up and don't allow anyone to burden you with responsibilities that aren't yours to bear. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Talks will lead to solutions today. Making money may be an issue for you but, if you think about what you like to do and what you are good at, you will come up with a way to fatten your wallet. Challenges will motivate you. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Love, generosity and doing for others will bring you satisfaction and make you look good in the eyes of others. By being responsible in your actions and caring for those in need, you will find peace in your own heart. Romance is available so set the stage. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have great ideas, a good work ethic and an insatiable curiosity. You love trying new things and helping others. You are a determined competitor who can always find a solution.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2		3		7		8	
8	5						6	3
			5	8	4			
7		4				1		8
		9		1		6		
3		2				9		5
			6	7	2			
1	7						9	6
	3		1		5		4	

Difficulty Level ★ 2/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	3	7	4	2	6	9	5	1
6	1	4	5	9	8	3	2	7
9	2	5	1	7	3	6	4	8
4	5	1	9	8	7	2	6	3
2	7	8	6	3	5	4	1	9
3	9	6	2	4	1	8	7	5
5	8	3	7	6	2	1	9	4
7	6	9	3	1	4	5	8	2
1	4	2	8	5	9	7	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SATELLITE RADIO **Solution: 7 letters**

O	E	R	E	T	S	A	N	O	I	T	A	T	S	P
N	N	D	C	D	A	T	Ⓐ	W	L	S	L	S	F	O
D	E	T	O	M	E	Ⓡ	I	L	E	A	E	I	I	R
I	T	S	M	C	Ⓔ	D	A	L	I	C	N	D	S	T
S	S	L	P	Ⓐ	E	T	I	C	C	D	U	I	T	A
T	I	E	E	R	S	B	R	A	T	A	T	S	R	B
A	L	N	T	N	O	E	D	N	U	O	S	H	O	L
N	G	N	I	M	M	A	R	G	O	R	P	X	P	E
C	E	A	T	M	O	E	M	S	A	B	O	D	S	T
E	V	H	O	S	V	E	W	D	A	B	I	E	E	A
E	L	C	R	I	I	E	I	N	M	G	N	V	R	V
G	O	G	E	G	N	O	D	O	I	N	A	I	I	I
N	V	C	N	N	G	S	O	T	S	R	A	C	A	T
A	E	P	L	A	Y	B	A	C	K	R	A	E	L	C
R	K	C	O	L	B	L	O	C	A	T	I	O	N	A

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Access, Activate, Angle, Area, Audio, Bands, Block, Boom Box, Cars, Cast, Channels, Clear, Code, Commercial, Competitor, Data, Device, Digital, Dish, Distance, Evolve, Find, Install, Listen, Location, Mobile, Moving, News, Playback, Portable, Programming, Radio, Range, Receiver, Remote, Roam, Serial, Signal, Sound, Sports, Station, Stereo, Tune, Wider

Last Saturday's Answer: Precaution

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 15, 22, 23, 24, 25 or 26, send $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com. (Contain 43 puzzles, 9 of which are the larger, 20 x 20 size)

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Apartment For Rent (in Beach Road, Garapan) One (1) Bedroom fully furnished with back-up generator and 24 hour water, washer & dryer facilities in the building. For inquiries, pls. call 322-6183

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2 bed room $230.00, Koblerville.
Contact: 288-0728.

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 ARTIST (M 6178)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & bonding. Contact: EQ Const. Corporation dba Saipan Arts & Signs @234-8827.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (M 6179)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self housing; ER provide food & medical employer provided. Contact: Remedio C. Matagolai @664-1250.

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1 MASSEUSE/MASSEUR (M 6180)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; employee provided food; self arranged transportation; workmen's compensation & medical expense. Contact: Elena R. Delos Santos dba Savannah's Massage and SPA @235-2847.

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1 COOK HELPER (M 6181)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Health insurance & workmen's compensation. Contact: Barbara Reyes dba Dr. Jack's Rest. @256-3020.

2 WAITER/WAITRESS (M 6182)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Health insurance & workmen's compensation. Contact: Barbara Reyes dba Dr. Jack's Rest. @256-3020.

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1 PRINTING MACHINE OPERATOR (M 6183)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Graphics Inc. @235-5496.

1 GRAPHIC ARTIST DESIGNER (M 6184)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Graphics Inc. @235-5496.

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1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (M 6185)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; medical & worker compensation. Contact: DL Corporation dba Cooking Gas/Sports Wear @235-5496.

1 SALES ROUTE DELIVER (M 6186)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; medical & worker compensation. Contact: DL Corporation dba Cooking Gas/Sports Wear @235-5496.

2 DRESS MAKER (M 6187)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; medical & worker compensation. Contact: DL Corporation dba Cooking Gas/Sports Wear @235-5496.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (M 6188)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; medical & worker compensation. Contact: DL Corporation dba Cooking Gas/Sports Wear @235-5496.

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1 CARPENTER (M 6189)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; medical & worker compensation. Contact: JOS Corporation @235-5496.

1 MAINTENANCE WORKER (M 6190)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; medical & worker compensation. Contact: JOS Corporation @235-5496.

1 CONST. WORKER (M 6191)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; transportation not provided; medical & workmen's compensation provided by the employer. Contact: JOS Corporation @235-5496.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (M 6192)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; medical & worker compensation. Contact: JOS Corporation @235-5496.

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1 MASON (M 6193)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: J-One Corporation @322-9000.

1 COOK (M 6194)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: J-One Corporation @322-9000.

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1 CARPENTER (M 6195)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: $40.00/housing monthly; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical employer provided. Contact: Philippine Goods Const., Inc. @234-0455/6485.

1 YARD WORKER (M 6196)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: $40.00/housing monthly; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical employer provided. Contact: Philippine Goods Const., Inc. @234-0455/6485.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (M 6197)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: $40.00/housing monthly; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical employer provided. Contact: Philippine Goods Const., Inc. @234-0455/6485.

1 (GAS) DIESEL MECHANIC (M 6198)
Salary:$3.50/hour. Benefits: $40.00/housing monthly; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical employer provided. Contact: Philippine Goods Const., Inc. @234-0455/6485.

2 JANITOR (M 6199)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: $40.00/housing monthly; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical employer provided. Contact: Philippine Goods Const., Inc. @234-0455/6485.

1 BEAUTICIAN (M 6200)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: $40.00/housing monthly; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical employer provided. Contact: Philippine Goods Const., Inc. @234-0455/6485.

1 COOK (M 6201)
Salary:$3.05-$3.25/hour. Benefits: $40.00/housing monthly; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical employer provided. Contact: Philippine Goods Const., Inc. @234-0455/6485.

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1 FLORAL DESIGNER (M 6202)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provide food; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Island Essence Inc. dba Island Florals & Gifts @235-2230.

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1 AUTO MECHANIC (M 6203)
Salary:$3.05-$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical expense. Contact: A.C.C.S. Corporation dba Cartown @233-9441.

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2 SECURITY GUARD (M 6204)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: MD Aykub Ali dba Norita Security Services @287-0319.

WHATZIT Solution:
Madame Tussauds

1 ACCOUNTANT (M 6205)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: D&W Saipan, Inc. dba Highway Express @234-5201.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (M 6206)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: MD Zakir Hossain @483-4045.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (M 6207)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: PSG Professional Corp. @235-5902.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (M 6208)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: K2 Corporation @234-3067.

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2 CONSTRUCTION WORKER (M 6209)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Mu Sung Corporation @288-1363.

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Calumet 4"X5" View camera with 90mm Caltar lens, tripod, film holders and extras $150. Call 433-0326

3 Penn Sen. 14/o reels with rods, $250 ea. 3 Penn international 50TW with rods $250 ea, 4 Penn Sen. 9/0 with rods, $125 ea.

Mahogany Bunk Bed with Serta mattress, $200

Whirlpool Electric Range, $150

Detecto 200lb scale, $100

Denyo/Yanmar Diesel 5KV Generator, electric start 110/220 with extra motors, $1200.

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Madame Sabre Scimitar

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

As added service to our valued customers, you may now submit all your JVA placements for announcement/publication in *Saipan Tribune's* print and online edition and KZMI/KCNM at the same time. No more worries of having to go to two different locations every time you need to place job vacancy announcements. Special rates are available for JVA customers under this arrangement.

Print*

• 1st position	$10
• 2nd position	$3
• Succeeding positions	$1

Combo (Print and Online)*

• 1st position	$13
• 2nd position	$4
• Succeeding positions	$2

Radio (KCNM/KZMI)

• Up to 6 positions	$5
• More than 6 positions	$10

LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.
- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Lawyer: Clemens wasn't at Canseco party

WASHINGTON (AP)—A lawyer for Roger Clemens said Saturday the pitcher can prove he didn't attend a June 1998 party at Jose Canseco's home described by Brian McNamee in the Mitchell Report.

According to McNamee, Clemens first raised the subject of steroids not long after McNamee saw Canseco and Clemens meeting during the party.

Clemens' side has turned over evidence to congressional investigators, including an affidavit from Canseco, to support that the pitcher wasn't present at Canseco's home that day, the attorney, Rusty Hardin, said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

Hardin said video footage from telecasts of baseball games around the time of the party also were given to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. During the telecasts, Hardin said, TV announcers can be heard discussing Canseco's party and noting that Clemens wasn't there.

A person familiar with the committee's investigation confirmed to the AP the affidavit and video were turned over and are in Clemens' favor. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the investigation.

The House panel is examining former Senate majority leader George Mitchell's report on drug use in baseball, and a public hearing Wednesday is expected to focus on Clemens' denials of what his former personal trainer, McNamee, alleged. McNamee told Mitchell he injected Clemens at least 16 times with steroids and human growth hormone in 1998, 2000 and 2001.

"One of the things the committee is going to hear on Wednesday is about this party that is supposed to have started this whole thing," Hardin said. "Roger wasn't even at this party."

Asked about what Hardin said, one of McNamee's attorneys, Richard Emery, replied: "It may be that he wasn't there for the whole time, but he was there at some point. ... His kids were there, his wife was there, and he was there."

AP

Former New York Yankees pitcher Roger Clemens leaves the office of Rep. Danny Davis, D-Ill., on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Feb. 8, 2008 following a meeting.

The first mention of Clemens' name in the Mitchell Report is on page 167. On the very next page comes McNamee's account of "a lunch party that Canseco hosted at his home in Miami."

"McNamee stated that, during this luncheon, he observed Clemens, Canseco, and another person he did not know meeting inside Canseco's house, although McNamee did not personally attend that meeting," the Mitchell Report says.

The report goes on to say that Canseco told Mitchell's staff "he had numerous conversations with Clemens about the benefits of Deca-Durabolin and Winstrol and how to 'cycle' and 'stack' steroids."

The report continues: "Toward the end of the road trip which included the Marlins series, or shortly after the Blue Jays returned home to Toronto, Clemens approached McNamee and, for the first time, brought up the subject of using steroids. Clemens said that he was not able to inject himself, and he asked for McNamee's help."

Hardin said that last week Clemens' camp sent a lawyer to interview Canseco, whose book about steroids in baseball, "Juiced," prompted Congress to hold hearings in March 2005. According to Hardin, Canseco said Clemens was not at the party.

Canseco did not immediately respond to a telephone message Saturday night.

Report: Schilling gets cortisone shot

BOSTON (AP)—Curt Schilling received a cortisone shot in his right shoulder on Friday, beginning a treatment plan the Red Sox hope will bring the right-hander back before the end of the season, The Boston Globe reported.

The painkilling shot would allow Schilling to begin rehabbing an injured shoulder tendon. Boston's team physician believes the tendon is damaged, not torn, and that rehabilitation gives Schilling his best chance to play this year.

Schilling's physician, Dr. Craig Morgan, disagrees, saying the tendon is torn and requires surgery.

On Saturday, Morgan said he could not confirm that Schilling had received the cortisone shot, but repeated his opinion that the team's recommended course of action is doomed to fail.

He said that within a couple of weeks of the shot, "(Schilling) won't even be able to exercise."

Schilling could not immediately be reached for comment. A team spokesman said Saturday that Red Sox would not comment.

The team signed the 41-year-old pitcher to an $8 million, one-year contract in the offseason. Morgan said Schilling agreed to follow the team's strong recommendation to rehabilitate the shoulder because he was concerned the Red Sox would attempt to invalidate his contract if he chose surgery.

Schilling spent seven weeks on the disabled list last year with tendinitis in the shoulder. But he passed the physical for the contract he agreed to on Nov. 6.

Schilling was 9-8 with a 3.87 ERA in 24 games last season. In the postseason, he went 3-0 with a 3.00 ERA to help the Red Sox win their second World Series title in four years.

Surprise: Jim Zorn hired as Redskins coach

WASHINGTON (AP)—After a suspenseful month of exhaustive interviews involving at least 10 candidates, the Washington Redskins decided their coach would be: none of the above.

Instead, it'll be first-timer Jim Zorn taking the mantle from Hall of Famer Joe Gibbs. Two weeks after being hired as the offensive coordinator, the former Seattle Seahawks quarterback was promoted to head coach Saturday night in a surprise ending to a secretive process that tried fans' patience and produced a new favorite every week.

The 54-year-old Zorn agreed to a five-year contract and will be introduced at a news conference Sunday.

"I've always dreamed of being a head coach with a franchise rich in tradition like the Redskins," Zorn said in a statement released by the team. "As a player who had to fight Redskins teams at RFK as well as at our home field, I know about the history of this franchise as well as the passion of its fans. I won't let you down."

Zorn was the Seahawks' quarterbacks coach for the last seven years, helping develop Matt Hasselbeck into a Pro Bowl player, but he had never been a coordinator for an NFL team until the Redskins came calling. Now he's making the jump to head coach.

"We're proud that our search was diligent, thorough, and resulted in today's announcement," owner Dan Snyder said. "Jim's track record and reputation as a player, great teacher, and as a coach makes us confident that they will translate to success for the Redskins."

Zorn becomes the sixth coach under Snyder, who bought the team in 1999, and he ends a string of high-profile coaching hires by an owner who had developed a reputation for hiring top names at a top price. Snyder's last three coaches were Marty Schottenheimer, Steve Spurrier and Gibbs. None had a cumulative winning record, although Gibbs took the Redskins to the playoffs in two of his four seasons before his resignation Jan. 8.

Zorn's hiring came after Snyder held marathon sessions with a variety of candidates. Two prominent names, Jim Mora and Steve Spagnuolo, withdrew from consideration to remain with their own teams. Jim Fassel had multiple interviews, but fans were seething when word got out that the former New York Giants coach was a possible finalist.

Others who didn't fit the bill for a variety of reasons included Steve Mariucci, Ron Meeks, Pete Carroll and Jim Schwartz. Redskins assistant Gregg Williams had the support of many players, but he had been unsuccessful in his previous stint as a head coach in Buffalo and was fired after meeting four times with Snyder about the job.

Meanwhile, during several of the interviews, candidates mentioned Zorn as a favorable possibility as an offensive coordinator to replace Al Saunders, whose offense had been a disappointment for the last two years.

In the statement released by the team, Snyder—who has been widely criticized during the coaching search—went into detail to explain how Zorn ended up with the top job.

"We knew of Jim's stellar offensive reputation, so we hired him as coordinator, but we also suspected he would be a strong candidate for head coach," Snyder said. "After our first six-hour interview with him, I told Joe (Gibbs), 'This guy would make a terrific head coach.' But we stayed true to our commitment to interview every candidate."

The Redskins had to wait until the Super Bowl was played to interview their final candidate, Giants defensive coordinator Spagnuolo. After Spagnuolo announced on Thursday that he'd rather stay with the Giants—who gave him a new three-year, $6 million contract—Snyder said he invited Zorn to lunch.

"I told him we were considering him as the next head coach, and asked if he wanted to move forward. Without hesitation he said 'absolutely,' and that's all I needed to hear," Snyder said. "We spent two days taking Jim through the same interview process as every other candidate. Those sessions only confirmed my earlier comment to Joe: Jim Zorn will be a terrific head coach."

Hart, Singh tied for the lead

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Dudley Hart has gone more than 10 years since he was atop the leaderboard going into the final round, and nearly eight years since his last PGA Tour victory. Now he gets to go head-to-head with Vijay Singh, a past champion at Pebble Beach and formerly No. 1 in the world.

Considering the fears Hart faced last year at home, don't expect that to rattle him in the least.

Hart skipped the final six months of last season when doctors discovered a softball-sized tumor in his wife's lung, and he invariably feared the worse while tending to their preschool triplets.

Suzanne Hart is recovering beautifully, and her husband isn't doing too badly at the moment, either.

Hart, who hasn't been in serious contention in nearly four years, finally got the best of Spyglass Hill on Saturday with a bogey-free round of 4-under 68, giving him a share of the lead with Singh at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

"It opens your eyes to what's truly important sometimes," Hart said.

Singh made an eagle on the par-5 11th at Spyglass on his way to a 67 to join Hart at 9-under 207, the highest score to lead after 54 holes at Pebble Beach since 1990.

They were two shots ahead of PGA Tour rookie Dustin Johnson and Michael Allen.

Defending champion Phil Mickelson lost all hope of being the first repeat winner at Pebble since Mark O'Meara in 1989-90 when he took an 11 on the par-5 14th and went from trying to stay in contention to missing the cut. He finished with a 78.

"It's not fun when it goes this way," Mickelson said.

Hart hadn't had at least a share of the lead since the 1996 Canadian Open, which he went on to win for the first of his two victories. And he is still trying to get back into a rhythm of tour life after a summer of uncertainty involving Suzanne, who had two-thirds of her right lung removed but is getting back to normal.

"It definitely scared me," Hart said. "I kept looking at those kids and I can't imagine ... God forbid, when they get that tumor out, it comes back bad and they don't have their mom around. That fortunately wasn't the issue. You have a lot of positive and negative thoughts, but the negative ones really scare you."

AP

Vijay Singh follows his drive from the fourth tee of the Spyglass Hill Golf Course during the third round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament in Pebble Beach, Calif., Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008.

It's been all good at Pebble, from his share of the lead to weather that makes the Monterey Peninsula feel like paradise.

Saturday at Pebble traditionally is for the celebrities, and their antics were limited to leaping into the gallery at the 15th tee and being passed through the crowd, although they struggled with hefty actor Kevin James.

Some of the best golf was found elsewhere on the peninsula.

Hart traditionally struggles with Spyglass, and he had his moments. He made good escapes from the bunker on No. 9 and 16 to save par, made birdies on the short par 3s, and finished with two birdies that put him atop the leaderboard.

Johnson, who made it through all three stages of Q-school last year, shot a 68 at Pebble Beach that included a wedge he holed out from 85 yards for eagle on No. 13.

The group at 6-under 210 included Steve Lowery, who had two double bogeys, six birdies and one par on the back nine at Poppy Hills that eventually added to a 70. Also in that group was 20-year-old Jason Day of Australia, who made six birdies at Pebble Beach to overcome some sloppy errors on his way to a 71.

Singh brought some star power to a leaderboard that had been littered with Nationwide Tour graduates for most of the week, and he might have had the lead outright except for missing birdie putts of 4 feet and 7 feet on the final two holes.

He won at Pebble in 2004, the first of his nine victories that year, and is getting closer to feeling comfortable with his swing changes.

"I just need to make some putts tomorrow," Singh said.

Hart is happy to be playing.

He was at The Players Championship last year when his wife, who had been coping with a bad cough, went to the doctor. The original diagnosis was pneumonia, but the doctors called back and said they discovered a mass on her lungs. She spent a month in the hospital and had surgery on May 21—her 36th birthday—to remove the tumor. Hart said the tumor had cancer cells on it, but doctors told him it wasn't cancerous.

"In a nutshell, we got very lucky," he said. "They have to keep a close eye on her. She has to go get checked up every three months for a year, but so far the checkups have been good. They just want to make sure nothing grows back."

In the meantime, the PGA Tour amended its major medical extension policy to include "family crisis," which was awarded to Hart and David Duval, whose wife was on bed rest the final six months of her pregnancy.

That means Hart has 15 tournaments to earn $485,931—the equivalent of No. 125 on the money list last year—and this would be a good way to take care of that. Hart is far more interested in winning, which he hasn't done since the Honda Classic in 2000.

"I know there's a lot of work tomorrow, but I'm happy to have a chance," he said. "It's a lot better than barely making the cut and going out there and trying to shoot 60 to make any kind of move. It's just nice to see something positive happen."

The cut in this pro-am event is top 60 and ties, and 60 players made it at 1 under. Among the casualties were FBR Open winner J.B. Holmes, who shot 78 at Poppy Hills, and Bob Hope winner D.J. Trahan, who took double bogey on the last hole at Pebble to miss one shot.

Greg Norman, playing for the first time on the PGA Tour in 18 months, shot 79 at Pebble Beach and missed it by 10 shots.

Undermanned Hornets down Grizzlies to move atop Southwest Division

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The undermanned New Orleans Hornets beat the Memphis Grizzlies 112-99 on Saturday to move equal top of the NBA's Southwest Division.

David West had 33 points and 10 rebounds to lead New Orleans, which was without starting center Tyson Chandler and starting shooting guard Morris Peterson.

Memphis has lost six straight and eight in a row on the road.

Pacers 101, Trail Blazers 93

In Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 29 points to lead Indiana past Portland.

The Trail Blazers have lost three of four.

Portland's All-Star guard Brandon Roy missed his second straight game after a death in his family.

Rockets 108, Hawks 89

In Houston, the home team routed Atlanta for its 10th win in 11 games.

Yao Ming had 28 points and nine rebounds for the Rockets, who are one win off matching their seven straight victories that ended the 2004-05 regular season and have moved into equal eighth in the Western Conference.

The Hawks have lost 10 of their past 11 road games and their past nine visits to Houston.

Jazz 97, Bulls 87

In Salt Lake City, a night after its 10-game winning streak ended, Utah responded by beating Chicago.

Carlos Boozer had 22 points and 12 rebounds, as the Jazz let a 14-point lead fall to two before pulling away in the fourth quarter.

The Bulls were again without injured starters Ben Gordon, Luol Deng and Kirk Hinrich and were wrapping up a six-game road trip.

76ers 101, Clippers 80

In Philadelphia, the home side posted its third straight win by downing Los Angeles.

Lou Williams scored 18 points and Andre Miller had 17 points and nine assists for the Sixers, who snapped a three-game losing streak to the Clippers.

Warriors 105, Kings 102

In Oakland, California, Monta Ellis scored 16 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter, including a key jump shot with 12.9 seconds left in Golden State's victory over Sacramento.

Ellis hit his baseline jumper and a free throw with 3.3 seconds left to quell the Kings' last rally.

Stephen Jackson hit two free throws with 2.4 seconds to play as the Warriors won for the 10th time in 14 games.

The Kings dropped to 0-7 against Pacific Division opponents.

Knicks 99, Bucks 98

In Milwaukee, New York overcame a 17-point, third-quarter deficit to beat Milwaukee and break an eight-game losing streak.

New faces of Heat introduced without much bravado

MIAMI (AP)—Shawn Marion walked into his official introduction with the Miami Heat with a new team golf shirt and a big wave.

"Hello, everyone," he said, smiling broadly.

OK, so Marion's welcome-to-Miami moment Friday lacked the thousands of delirious fans, water cannons, and tractor-trailer Shaquille O'Neal had at his celebrated arrival four years ago.

But this day, at least in the eyes of Heat coach Pat Riley, was no less significant.

New Heat players Marcus Banks, left, and Shawn Marion will spearhead the Miami rebuilding project coach Pat Riley is undertaking.

He hopes Marion, a four-time All-Star forward, and point guard Marcus Banks—whom Miami acquired Wednesday in the stunning deal that sent O'Neal to the Phoenix Suns—are the first two pieces in a quick rebuilding project in South Florida.

"Today is really about change, it's about moving on, it's about getting on with what's going to happen in the Miami Heat's future," Riley said. "And these are two people who are going to start that."

Both will practice with the team for the first time Saturday morning, and are expected to play Sunday afternoon when Miami—the 2006 NBA champions who are now the league's worst team at 9-39 this season—hosts the Los Angeles Lakers.

They seemed eager to get started, and eager to play for Riley, too.

"As long as they're hard-working, as long as they're in shape, as long as they're professional and as long as they're unselfish, and if they've got a little nastiness in them along the way, then we're not going to have any problems," Riley said.

The trade caught both Marion and Banks, like just about everyone else, off-guard.

Marion was napping when the word of the pending deal came out Tuesday, and said he awoke to see 20 missed calls on his cell phone. He finally picked up when Banks dialed his number, frantically asking him what was happening.

Just like that, they went from the best team in the West to the worst team in the East. Oddly, though, neither seemed to mind that much.

"The sky's the limit," Marion said. "Can't get any worse. We can only get better now."

Marion averaged 15.8 points and 9.9 rebounds in 47 games this season with the Suns, with career averages of 18.4 points and 10 rebounds, and can also defend just about anyone on the floor. He has a $17 million player option for next season, yet indicated that if he had to choose now, he'd lean toward staying in Miami.

"I'm here and I'm ready for a new start," Marion said. "I'm in it for the long haul."

Banks, in his fifth NBA campaign, averaged 5.2 points primarily as Steve Nash's backup with the Suns this season. He's only started 35 times since entering the league, and has rarely gotten the consistent minutes that all players crave.

Barakos force rubbermatch

MANILA, Philippines—With their backs against the wall, the Red Bull Barakos played a flawless game from start to finish and scored a masterful 123-97 blowout over the Purefoods Tender Juicy Giants in Game Six of the PBA Philippine Cup semifinal series at the Araneta Coliseum last night.

The game was an all-Red Bull show as the Barakos buckled down to serious business right from the opening bell en route to tallying the convincing victory that tied the series at three games piece and force a deciding Game Seven on Sunday.

After a heartbreaking 95-96 loss in Game Five last Wednesday, the Barakos did everything right last night, jumping to an early 20-1 lead behind the combined forces of Kiko Adriano, Mick Pennisi and Cyrus Baguio.

The Barakos closed the opening period with a 42-20 lead and was never threatened seriously from that point on.

With James Yap scoring eight points in an 11-4 run at the start of the second period, the Giants trimmed their deficit to just 16 points, 32-46.

The Barakos, however, were quick to reply a searing run and restored a 25-point bubble, 62-37.

Adriano was the surprise package for the Barakos in the crucial game as he erupted for a career-high 29 points on a 10-of-15 shooting from the field.

Adriano also added six rebounds and five assists.

Pennisi and Baguio added to the woes for Purefoods with their 23 and 18 markers, respectively.

In that decisive first half, the Barakos went 10-of-17 from the three-point land while the Giants were just three-of-13. Overall, Red Bull made 17 triples compared to the Giants' five.

Peter June Simon top scored for the Giants with 26 points while Yap, who was hounded by foul trouble, added 18.

What really jolted the Giants was the offensive struggle of Kerby Raymundo, who was limited to just four points.

Red Bull 123 – Adriano 29, Pennisi 23, Baguio 18, Hrabak 8, Duncil 8, Ybanez 8, Cruz 8, Valenzuela 8, Sharma 6, Membrere 5, Andaya 0.

Purefoods 97 – Simon 26, Yap J. 18, Lanete 14, Pingris 7, Evangelista 7, Yee 7, Salvador 5, Sanz 4, Raymundo 4, Castillo 3, Adducul 2, Yap R. 0. ***(PDI)***

SAIPAN

From Page 28

Benavente relayed the message of Mayor Tudela as he wishes all the players to have a safe game every time they take the field. "[The Mayor] wishes you all a successful and exciting games."

Thirty teams spread out in four divisions will begin their respective quests for titles as the 2008 season when games begin on Saturday. Fifteen teams will be competing in the Major division, while four will vie for the Junior league crown. The Senior and Big League divisions have five teams each.

The SaipanCell Patriots is aiming for their third straight title in the Majors division. Out to stop them are the As Matuis Twins, Athletic A's, PTI Dolphins, Department of Public Safety (Dare JPO), Hustler I and II, Kagman Lions, Team McDonald's, Ol'Aces, Pirates, Bank of Saipan Red Sox, San Antonio Dragons, Suns, Survivors, and Tanapag Braves.

The Fielders, Lion Hearts, Ol'Aces, and the Jets are the competing teams in the Junior league, while the Senior division squads are the D"9"ers, PTI Dolphins, Fielders, Jets, and Lion Kings.

The Big League is composed of the Fielders, Aztecs, Falcons, Jets, and PTI Dolphins.

Aside from Tenorio, the other SLLBA officers for 2008 are vice president and player agent Michael A. Borja, secretary Bobbie Norita-Techur, treasurer Annie Deleon Guerrero Flores, chief statistician Roque Celis, safety officer Ben Taitano, umpire consultant James Miwata, and managers' representative George N. Camacho.

JAPANESE

From Page 28

"We want the people to know that they can do a lot of water sports like wakeboarding on Saipan whole year round," Fujimoto added.

Both Hatakeyama and Fujimoto started wakeboarding in 1997 and both turned pro in 2000. They have always joined all five tournaments organized by the Japan Wakeboarding Association every year.

Hatakeyama previously won a tournament in Malaysia in 2005 and was a 2002 finalist in an Australian championship while Fujimoto was the 2006 champion in the All Japan Championship.

Both riders have known and competed against 15-year-old teen sensation Toshiki, who was the 2007 open champion and also visited Saipan a few weeks ago with some of his friends.

Hatakeyama and Fujimoto are both pro riders from the JWBA Gator Board and also competed in the 5th Annual Chagi Cup five months ago.

Both riders practiced their butter slide, tootsie roll, half-cab, scarecrow, and hoochie glide tricks on Saturday morning in the waters off Saipan Grand Hotel and Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

The two Japanese wakeboarding pros and their clients are scheduled to leave the CNMI on Feb. 12. Hatakeyama and Fujimoto, along with several other wakeboarding pros, will be back on Saipan this October for the staging of the 6th Annual Chagi Cup.

During last year's race Hatakeyama's Team Hatake lost to eventual champion Boku-chan in the finals. Deleon Guerrero was a member of Boku-chan, Fujimoto's Team B, meanwhile, failed to finish past the elimination round.

On Jan. 29, JWBA 2007 national champion Toshiki visited Saipan along with his friends 14-year-old Nari, who is also a professional wakeboarder; Natsuki, 12; and Mizuki, 10. Toshiki won the Japan Professional Wakeboard Association open title last year against older and veteran wakeboarders.

KUWAIT

From Page 28

Jacobe of Vanuatu and Michael Leong of Solomon Islands competed well, but were unable to make headway against the vastly more experienced Kuwaiti pairing.

After not winning a doubles in Asia/Oceania Group II over the past three years, Mainguy put a new combination of Jacobe and Leong on court in a last ditch attempt to keep the tie with Kuwait alive.

However, the experienced Kuwait pair of Mohammad Ghareeb and Mohammed Sidiq was too strong in all departments winning 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 to wrap up the tie.

Ghareeb has a checkered resume in Davis Cup play and is currently ranked 434 in singles and 288 in doubles in the ATP. Although unranked Siddiq, for his part, has won 25 matches against 11 losses in Davis Cup.

Mainguy said afterwards that the Islanders' pair competed well and the match was closer than the score indicated, but the team was unable to win the vital game points that would have brought them within reach of a set.

The reverse singles will be played on Sunday. At this stage, Mainguy has named Leong Juan Sebastian Langton of Samoa but this can be changed up to one hour before the match starts.

In other 2008 Asia/Oceania Zone Group first round ties, New Zealand has taken a 3-0 lead against Oman in Muscat, which will mean Pacific Oceania will need to travel to Oman in April for a difficult relegation tie.

Australia, meanwhile, beat Chinese Taipei, 3-0. Both Australia and New Zealand had to come from two sets-to-love deficits to win the doubles in five sets.

Last Friday, Kuwait showed why they are the top seeds in Asia/Oceania Group II when they swept both opening singles matches against Pacific Oceania without dropping a set.

Their most experienced player and No. 1 Ghareeb was too strong for Langton in the opening singles winning, 6-1, 6-1, 6-2.

Pacific Oceania hoped for a better showing in the second singles match when Leong took the court against Kuwait's No. 2 player Abdullah Magdas. However, Magdas came out firing and Leong quickly found himself two sets behind.

In the third set the Solomon Islander rallied and looked to have a chance, but eventually went down 6-4 to lose the match 6-1, 6-1, 6-4.

SHAKE UP

From Page 28

Fanians were the biggest surprise last week after climbing out of fifth place to secure the second spot from the Islanders. Fanians and Islanders both hold similar 5-2 marks but the former scored the most points and gave up the fewest points from their opponents that allowed them to occupy the No. 2 position, just half a game behind the league-leading Menudo's 6-1 card.

A 25-13, 25-15, 15-8 win over the luckless Ma Numel'u last Thursday propelled Fanians to the No. 2 spot. It was Fanians' fourth win in five games after its stunning win over Menudo on Jan. 22.

It was also Fanians' fourth straight win after suffering a 25-22, 15-25, 9-15 loss to CH-Hammer last Jan. 29.

Islanders slid down from second to third with a 5-2 mark followed by No Fear and Ol'Aces at fourth and fifth places with similar 4-3 slates, while CH-Hammer and former leader Home Boyz hold consecutive 4-4 records to occupy sixth and seventh spots. Beach Jammers, 0-6, and Ma Numel'u, 0-7, complete the standings.

Menudo continues its hold of the top spot after a 25-17, 25-12, 14-16 win over Home Boyz, while Ol'Aces pulled off a hard-earned 27-25, 23-25, 17-15 victory against CH-Hammer.

No Fear outlasted Islanders, 25-22, 25-21, 13-15, in the day's final match.

While major changes happened in the men's side, nothing big took place in the women's division with only Seikid and Beach Jammers exchanging places.

Pikan Gaga is still enjoying their view from the top with a 5-0 slate after a 25-19, 25-15, 15-17 decision over Beach Jammers.

Seikid went up two places and replaced the Jammers in second place despite losing to YoYo's, 25-23, 15-25, 10-15. Seikid, YoYo's, and Beach Jammers have the same 2-3 marks, but the former earned the second spot after having the most sets won with eight against the seven and six of their opponents.

Ta Chagi, which drew a bye, completes the women's field with their 1-3 mark.

Action continues tomorrow with the Beach Jammers, which will play twice in one day, going up against Ma Numel'u in the battle of winless teams in the 6pm opener, while Menudo takes on No Fear in the 7pm second game.

The 8pm third match will be between Ol'Aces and Islanders, while Fanians aim for their fifth straight win when they clash with Beach Jammers at 9pm.

In the women's division, Beach Jammers hope to bounce back from its loss against Pikan Gaga when they face Ta Chagi in the first game at 6pm. Pikan Gaga will go for their sixth consecutive win when it clashes with YoYo's.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	38	9	.809	–
Toronto	26	22	.542	12 1/2
New Jersey	21	29	.420	18 1/2
Philadelphia	21	30	.412	19
New York	15	36	.294	25

Southeast Division

Orlando	32	20	.615	–
Washington	24	25	.490	6 1/2
Atlanta	21	26	.447	8 1/2
Charlotte	18	32	.360	13
Miami	9	39	.188	21

Central Division

Detroit	36	13	.735	–
Cleveland	28	21	.571	8
Indiana	21	30	.412	16
Chicago	20	30	.400	16 1/2
Milwaukee	19	32	.373	18

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	34	15	.694	–
New Orleans	34	15	.694	–
San Antonio	32	16	.667	1 1/2
Houston	30	20	.600	4 1/2
Memphis	13	37	.260	21 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	33	19	.635	–
Denver	30	19	.612	1 1/2
Portland	28	22	.560	4
Seattle	13	37	.260	19
Minnesota	10	38	.208	21

Pacific Division

Phoenix	35	15	.700	–
L.A. Lakers	32	17	.653	2 1/2
Golden State	30	20	.600	5
Sacramento	23	26	.469	11 1/2
L.A. Clippers	16	32	.333	18

Yesterday's Games

Indiana 101, Portland 93
Philadelphia 101, L.A. Clippers 80
New Orleans 112, Memphis 99
Houston 108, Atlanta 89
New York 99, Milwaukee 98
Utah 97, Chicago 87
Golden State 105, Sacramento 102

PEBBLE BEACH NATIONAL PRO-AM SCORES

Third Round

Dudley Hart	69-70-68	207
Vijay Singh	70-70-67	207
Dustin Johnson	73-68-68	209
Michael Allen	68-70-71	209
Steve Lowery	69-71-70	210
Jeff Quinney	69-70-71	210
Ryan Armour	71-71-68	210
Y.E. Yang	69-73-68	210
Fredrik Jacobson	73-67-70	210
Jason Day	69-70-71	210
Mark Wilson	68-71-72	211
Robert Damron	71-70-70	211
Jay Williamson	68-71-72	211
Jonathan Kaye	70-71-70	211
Jim McGovern	71-69-71	211
Kent Jones	66-74-71	211
D.A. Points	68-73-70	211
Tim Herron	68-69-74	211
Matt Kuchar	74-69-69	212
John Riegger	72-70-70	212
Padraig Harrington	72-70-70	212
James Driscoll	72-68-72	212
Nicholas Thompson	69-69-74	212
Tag Ridings	73-71-68	212
Robert Floyd	68-70-74	212
Jason Gore	70-74-69	213
Pat Perez	74-70-69	213
Mathew Goggin	71-70-72	213
Joe Ogilvie	74-69-70	213
Chris Riley	73-68-72	213
Jim Furyk	71-75-67	213
Kevin Na	71-69-73	213
Andrew Buckle	69-73-71	213
Brent Geiberger	69-73-71	213
Davis Love III	70-71-72	213
Corey Pavin	73-69-71	213
Olin Browne	68-73-73	214
Nick Watney	76-71-67	214
John Mallinger	67-74-73	214
Alex Cejka	72-72-70	214
Daisuke Maruyama	71-72-71	214
Marco Dawson	73-69-72	214
Tom Pernice, Jr.	70-74-70	214
Parker McLachlin	70-70-74	214
Charlie Wi	73-72-70	215
Justin Leonard	70-71-74	215
Lee Janzen	74-69-72	215
Bo Van Pelt	74-74-67	215
Tim Petrovic	76-66-73	215
Paul Stankowski	74-72-69	215
Jin Park	72-69-74	215
Brandt Snedeker	73-72-70	215
Alejandro Canizares	70-73-72	215
Craig Kanada	72-71-72	215
Mike Weir	75-69-71	215
Greg Kraft	72-73-70	215
Carlos Franco	71-73-71	215
Shane Bertsch	77-70-68	215
Jeff Maggert	72-73-70	215
Ryan Moore	71-70-74	215

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NMIVA Indoor Standings

Men's Division

	W	L	PF	PA	SW
Menudo	6	1	441	319	18
Fanians	5	2	420	375	14
Islanders	5	2	396	399	11
No Fear	4	3	433	408	12
Ol'Aces	4	3	416	430	10
CH-Hammer	4	4	471	443	13
Home Boyz	4	4	461	459	13
Beach Jammers	0	6	305	389	2
Ma Numel'u	0	7	338	457	3

Women's Division

Pikan Gaga	5	0	315	269	10
Seikid	2	3	285	296	8
YoYo's	2	3	298	291	7
Beach Jammers	2	3	263	302	6
Ta Chagi	1	3	226	229	5

PF-Points for
PA-Points allowed
SW-Sets won

Rogolifoi reminds teams of Feb. 18 meeting

Masters batter Tony Camacho waits for the pitch in this file photo taken during their championship match against the Tanapag Falcons in last year's finals of the 2nd Annual Budweiser- Saipan Major League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

JON PEREZ

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan Major League coordinator Tony Rogolifoi reminded the eight participating teams in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-SML's 2008 to mark their calendars on Feb. 18 and 25.

Rogolifoi said Feb. 18 would be the final meeting for the upcoming SML-Budweiser season, while the following week will be the league's opening ceremony and first game for 2008.

The Feb. 18, Monday, meeting is also the same day all team representatives will finalize the details of the upcoming league. The meeting will be held at 6:30pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym conference room.

Rogolifoi is requesting managers, coaches, or team representatives to attend the meeting since the entrance fee, team rosters, and waiver forms are all due to be submitted on the same day.

Eight teams have registered to play in the upcoming league led by defending champion Tanapag Falcons and last year's runner-up Atty. Bob O'Connor Tigers, formerly known as the Masters.

The other participating teams are Rock Steady (Bud Kings), Ford Rangers, Korean Dreams, Komoro, D-9ers, and Team Rubak. The eight teams must pay the $800 entrance fee and checks should be made payable to SML.

The league opens on Feb. 25, Monday, at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field where a rematch of last year's finals will take place in the opening day contest.

Defending champion Tanapag Falcons will pick up where they left off when they face the Masters in the scheduled opening game after the brief opening ceremony at 6:30pm.

The Falcons are expected to field the same championship-winning team next season, while the Masters, now known as the Atty. Bob O'Connor Tigers, hope their recent victory in the Masters Baseball League would carry over in the SML's regular season.

Last season, the third-seeded Falcons completed their own happily-ever-after ending by sweeping the fourth-ranked Masters in their best-of-five title series.

The Falcons rallied back from a 9-2 deficit to squeeze out a 10-9 win in Game 3 over the Masters to complete a three-game sweep.

The Falcons drew first blood in their title series against the Masters when they squeezed out an 11-inning 16-15 win.

Game 2 was a different story as the Falcons relied on a Mike Pangelinan double in the top of the ninth and their pitchers in the bottom half of the inning to score a 12-10 come-from-behind win.

For more information, call Rogolifoi at 288-3515.

No-Use squeaks past Evenflow

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

No-Use edged Evenflow, 89-88, in a four-set, juice-out victory in Game 1 of their best-of-five championship series in the 2007-2008 World Organized Rocball Community League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

In the first set, No-Use dominated play with seven two-pointers compared to Evenflow scoring only three two-point plays and losing three of those points off shank serves. No-Use went on to take the first set, 26-14.

In the second set, Evenflow got even by knocking off No-Use, 27-14. Evenflow's second set scoring effort was sans a service shank. They also scored six two-point plays and a three-point goal. No-Use was held to four two-point plays and remained service error free.

At the end of two sets of play, game points were 41-40 in favor of Evenflow. Both teams played hard offense and defense with Evenflow coming out on top with two three-point goals, four two-point plays, and no shank serves.

No-Use played solid with a lot of one-point court scoring, five two-point plays, and a shanked served that cost them the set. Evenflow won the third set, 25-24.

The score going into the final set of regular play had Evenflow with a two-point advantage, 66-64. In order to juice out and win a Rocball game under the rules of a quarter/set system of play, a team needs to have outscored their opponents in game points after four sets and win the fourth set for victory.

Evenflow flow needed to hold onto their game point lead to win the first championship game and No-Use had to win the fourth set with a game point margin of three points or more.

Evenflow scored five two-point plays and lost two points on shank serves. No-Use scored seven two-point plays made no service errors and won the fourth set with just enough points, 25-22, to edge out Evenflow in game points, 89-88.

The championship of the islands' indigenous sport continues this Saturday, Feb. 16, with Game 2 scheduled at 6pm and Game 3 at 7:30pm.

In the game that decided the positions of third and fourth places, No-Mercy defeated Try-Outs in four sets in a come-from-behind win to clinch the third spot. This game was tight in all four sets of play up to the fourth set.

Try-Outs won the first three sets, 21-19, 26-19, and 23-22 and had a 10-point lead going into the last set.

No-Mercy needed a winning margin of 11 points in the fourth set to juice out and win the game. No-Mercy scored 22 points in the last set and held Try-Outs to only nine point for an 82-79 juice-out win.

9th RP Hobie Challenge docks in four areas of Eastern Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY, Philippines—The 2008 Philippine Hobie Challenge, the country's premier inter-island regatta on the Hobie 16, the world most popular catamaran design, will pass by Eastern Visayas on Feb. 18–22, 2008, Department of Tourism (DOT) Region 8 Director Karina Rosa Tiopes informed.

Director Tiopes said that the Challenge will start in Luzon and will pass through the Visayas and finish in Mindanao, hence been christened as "Luzviminda Challege."

This year, the organizers, the Philippine Hobei Foundation, have chosen an exciting new route for the week-long premier sailing event that will showcase the multitude of beautiful islands in the Philippines, and Eastern Visayas will have a chance to showcase its beautiful islands too.

In Eastern Visayas, Director Tiopes disclosed, four docking areas have been identified. From Gubat, Sorsogon, the participants will pass through the Saint Bernardino Strait to the Sambawan Island at Maripipi, Biliran on February 18 which is the first leg of the race.

On the second day, January 19, the boats will be seen heading for San Juanico Straits, a narrow strip of water varying from 2 miles to a few hundred metres wide that divides Samar from Leyte and is cross by the San Juanico Strait bridge, just north of Tacloban, past Bilirian Island to a deserted beach on Bacsal Island, which is situated at the Northern end of the Strait in Daram, Samar.

On Feb. 20, the third day, sailing through the Straits will be tactically challenging as the sailors pick their way between the islands, rocks and reefs to find the best wind and tide. The day will end with a reach across the northern end of the Leyte Gulf to a beach resort among the limestone cliffs and deep clear waters of the Marabut Peninsular, the Marabut Rock Islets in Marabut, Samar.

On the fourth day, Feb. 21, the boats will proceed East across the Leyte Gulf heading for the Pacific Ocean and the tiny island of Suluan, in Guiuan town, which is some 15 miles off the southern tip of Eastern Samar. Here on a beautiful golden sand spit of land jutting out into the ocean the sailors will be fed on freshly caught fish grilled to perfection by the accompanying chefs and provided by the local community.

The Challenge will proceed to the Marabut Rock Islets in Marabut, Samar and then to Suluan Island in Guiuan, Eastern Samar on Feb. 21.

On Feb. 22, the fifth and last day of the inter-island phase of the Challenge, will have the competitors sailing 65 miles south down the Pacific Ocean swells and with a following wind, to the surfing paradise island of Siargao on the Northern tip of Mindanao, know for its Cloud 9 surfing waves.

About 16 competitors of nearly 100 sailors have already indicated their interest in entering from Thailand, the U.S., Australia, Netherlands, France, and the Northern Marianas Islands. Top local sailors mainly based at the Taal Lake Yacht Club and with the Philippine Sailing Association will also enter.

The organizing committee is once again working with the Department of Tourism in promoting the Philippines as a safe and interesting destination for tourists. The Department is sponsoring the production of a film of the Challenge to be shown on the cable networks. The film will also featuring the whale sharks of Sorgogon, the island paradise of Calicoan Island and the surfing capital of Siargao and all the beautiful islands in between.

In Eastern Visayas, the Challenge is supported by the Department of Tourism Region 8, the Philippine navy, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police 8, Department of Health 8, Philippine National Red Cross, Province of Samar, Province of Eastern Samar, Province of Biliran, and the Municipalities of Maripipi in Biliran, Daram and Marabut in Samar, and Guiuan in Eastern Samar. ***(PR)***

Wahoo Jackpot Derby set for Feb. 16

The 2008 Wahoo Jackpot Derby will sail this coming Saturday, Feb. 16, from the Smiling Cove Marina in Puerto Rico.

According to Saipan Fishermen's Association president Gene Weaver pre-registration is set a day before the derby, Feb. 15, from 5pm to 6:30pm at Smiling Cove Marina. The cost to participate in the derby is $100 for a crew of four and $25 for each additional angler.

The 2008 edition of the one-day tournament that seeks to reel in a whopping wahoo was originally set last Jan. 9, but was postponed as 15-20 knots generating swells from five to seven feet were forecasted during that weekend.

SFA would like to thank the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, DPS Boating Safety Division, Emergency Management Office, and the Marianas Visitors Authority for supporting the event.

For more information about the 2008 Wahoo Jackpot Derby, contact MVA's Frank Tudela at 664-3200/01 or e-mail at ftudela@mymarianas.com.

Ten boats and many more fisherman heeded John D. Guerrero's call and took to the water in December 2006 in search of a winner as participants of the inaugural Wahoo Jackpot Derby.

The top prize of the inaugural competition went to captain John Tenorio and angler Jack Diaz of the *Ana Maria* who reeled in the catch of the day when they hoisted their 22.55-lbs. wahoo out of the water, and their efforts on the sea brought them a hefty $600 cash prize.

The crew of the *Ana Maria* wasn't the only group of gaffers to take home a share of the prize money, as captain Mark Hanson, Dave Banes, and Narong the Wahoo Wrangler took home $400 for weighing in the most pieces of pisces when they brought the *Sea Amigo* to the docks with three fish on board. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Rogolifoi reminds teams of Feb. 18 meeting

Saipan Major League coordinator Tony Rogolifoi reminded the eight participating teams in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-SML's 2008 to mark their calendars on Feb. 18 and 25.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Lawyer: Clemens wasn't at Canseco party

A lawyer for Roger Clemens said Saturday the pitcher can prove he didn't attend a June 1998 party at Jose Canseco's home described by Brian McNamee in the Mitchell Report.

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Saipan Little League opens '08 season

JON PEREZ
Saipan Little League opened its 2008 season Friday night with a brief ceremony at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field. House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios delivers his words of wisdom to the kids, inset.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Saipan Little League opened its 2008 season Friday night with a brief ceremony at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Games where not played last Friday and action will begin on Feb. 16 at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan and FMP fields.

Saipan Little League Baseball Association officials decided to hold separately the ceremony and opening games due to the unavailability of the FMP field, which is still being used by the visiting Korean professional baseball team LG Twins.

The ceremony was well attended by officials from the local government, the Legislature, and the SLLBA board along with CNMI district administrator and international board director James A. Ada.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs acting secretary Melvin Faisao represented Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Tim Villagomez, while Tony Benavente stood in for Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela.

Other officials in attendance were Senate President Pete P. Reyes, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, Reps. Ray Palacios, Ed Salas, Rosemond Santos, and Ray Tebuteb.

Faisao, in his speech, said the Fitial-Villagomez administration is throwing its full support to the Saipan Little League baseball program, which is an important part of local tradition.

"The governor and lieutenant governor are great fans of the Saipan Little League. They are proud of the programs' achievements where CNMI teams have done well in [regional and World Series] competitions against bigger teams. They have done well to make our islands proud," said Faisao.

Faisao added the Fitial-Villagomez administration is wishing all teams for a successful and enjoyable 2008 season.

Senate President Reyes said the Saipan Little League baseball program help hone the kids to become talented individuals. "Not only do they get the chance to improve their skills the program also helps the kids improve their social skill towards becoming responsible individuals."

Reyes said he hopes someday the Saipan Little League program could produce the CNMI's first Major League Baseball player. "I hope one of you could someday be off to the major leagues."

House Speaker Palacios said the Saipan Little League program teaches commitment not only to the players but also to the volunteers, to the members of the board, and to all sponsors.

"It teaches commitment to players to do well, for volunteers to take spend time to make the program work, to the [board] who every year sets up the program, and to the businesses and individuals that continuously support the Little League," said Palacios.

Palacios is also hoping to see that in 2008 all four divisions of the Saipan Little League program go to the World Series in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania for the Majors; Taylor, Michigan for the Junior; Bangor, Maine for the Senior; and Easley, South Carolina for the Big League.

"I wanted to watch ESPN as early as 2am to see a team from Saipan play in the World Series. I commend the [SLLBA board] for the year long planning of the 2008 season," Palacios ended.

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Kuwait secures tie against Pacific Oceania

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Kuwait's ATP-ranked players proved too much for Pacific Oceania, as the Islanders once again went down in defeat in their doubles match against the Middle East country yesterday at the Bassam Al-Motawa Tennis Center in Mishref, Kuwait.

The loss, coupled with the Cyrille Mainguy-captained team's two defeats in the opening day singles Friday, means that Kuwait has already secured its 2008 Asia/Oceania Zone Group II first round against Pacific Oceania.

The new doubles pair Cyril

See KUWAIT on Page 26

Japanese pros practice Saturday

JON PEREZ
Japanese professional wakeboarders Yoshiyuki Hatakeyama, right, and Makoto Fujimoto made some practice rounds in the waters off Saipan World Resort and Saipan Grand Hotel Saturday.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Almost two weeks after Japanese professional wakeboarding champion Toshiki visited Saipan, two other pro riders paraded their skills and practiced their high-flying stunts on the Saipan Lagoon.

Saipan regulars Yoshiyuki Hatakeyama and Makoto Fujimoto were again on island to let some of their friends and customers enjoy the extreme water sport of wakeboarding.

The 37-year-old Hatakeyama and the 32-year-old Fujimoto, who are both from Osaka Yodogawa Prefecture, owns a professional wakeboard towing shop in one of Japan's environmental cities. Their business, Toko Panas, has been running for almost three years now.

The two were part of a 13-man group that arrived last Feb. 7 on Saipan to enjoy wakeboarding since it is still winter in Osaka. "We want to support Saipan tourism," said Hatakeyama through interpreter Kumiko T. Deleon Guerrero, who owns J&K Marine Sports with husband Joe.

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Shake up in men's standings, women's remain the same

JON PEREZ
The standings of the women's division of the Indoor Volleyball Winter League remained basically the same after Thursday night's matches at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

A major shake up in the standings took place in the men's division of the Indoor Volleyball Winter League Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The shakeup, however, did not affect Menudo's lofty perch on top of the nine-team field with the changes only taking place from second to seventh place involving Fanians, Islanders, No Fear, Ol'Aces, CH-Hammer, and Home Boyz.

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